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Palestinian Affairs

DAVAR Version of 'Arafat Letter to Activists

TA2802141990 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
28 Feb 90 p 7

["Full version" of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's letter to the convention of the International Center for Middle East Peace in Jerusalem]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen, participants of the international conference of Jewish community leaders in Jerusalem:

Freedom, democracy, and human rights are the same values for which the Palestinian people are waging their heroic struggle which harmonizes with the new human reality and with the new features marking the end of this century. Our people, therefore, who have the right to existence, reassurance, security, and freedom, just like other peoples around the globe, have been able to contribute toward the process of revolutionary inspiration through their unique nationalist manifestations. They have also been inspired by the triumph of these values to derive new powers to resist oppression and occupation. Thus, the Palestinian intifadah is being developed by the new world climate, which, in turn, was given sublime human examples by the intifadah, as further expression of its enhanced confidence in its ability to endure until victory is achieved and to rally further world sympathy with its national and human objectives. The intifadah is also in total harmony with mankind's quest to formulate a democratic, free, and peaceful world and to raise the worth of human rights to the level of sanctity.

The popular Palestinian intifadah culminates the march of our people in exile and diaspora toward our homeland, where we will stress our national identity and establish our right to self-determination, freedom, and national independence. The content of the intifadah is peaceful. Likewise, its manifestations are peaceful, as we have so far decided it shall be. Through resisting the occupation, the intifadah seeks freedom, peace, and coexistence on the basis of respect for all peoples in the region. It heeds no authority [marji'iyah] but its people's right to self-determination and independence like other peoples and it heeds no authority other than international legitimacy.

In light of the intifadah and its moral and political power, the PLO formulated in its Palestine National Council session in Algiers the Palestinian peace plan. We assume that you are aware of the contents of the Palestinian peace plan and of the fact that this plan is a strategic option, not a tactical maneuver, as the enemies of peace say. We also assume that you know that this plan enjoys the full support of the Palestinian, Arab, and international legitimacy. It is regrettable that this plan, which establishes peace and security for all and terminates the occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories, be met with this campaign of casting doubts and fears. The Israeli fears—whether natural or fabricated, real or fake—are fears which interest us and arouse our concern. This is because the continued use of them as pretexts slows the momentum of the historical and current settlement.

We deeply believe, however, that the only genuine security guarantee for the Israelis lies in judiciously heading toward the achievement of peace with the Palestinian people on the basis of terminating the occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories and on the basis of joining us in the recognition of the principle of two states in accordance with the rules of international legitimacy and as stipulated by the Palestinian peace initiative, which has been supported and asserted on Arab and international levels through the Arab summits, the United Nations, the EEC, the socialist states, Japan, the Scandinavian states, the nonaligned states, and the Islamic and African states.

Permit me to add that Israel's fears, whether they be genuine or fabricated, arouse concern on the Palestinian side. When the Palestinian people watch the Israeli Government's convoluted maneuvers and the great obstacles Israel places on the road to peace, they find it hard to trust in the good intentions of Israel's leaders.

We also believe that the Palestinian people's political guarantees against the danger of Israeli maneuvers lie in the actual participation of the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of Palestinian people everywhere under the occupation and the diaspora—in the peace process at every level and every stage. The peace process begins with those who can make peace and give guarantees for security and stability. Until this process begins, the Israelis' fears of the future will end only through international guarantees for the two sides within the international framework for peace and within the context of international responsibility. The Isrealis' fears are parallel to the legitimate fears of the Palestinians who are suffering from repression, official organized terrorism, occupation and settlement, and deprivation of the simplest human rights and a free and honorable life.

Among your fears is also the fear of the right to repatriation. As this factor is used as an excuse to deepen that fear of peace and to answer it with the fire of all-destroying war, we believe that the solution to this issue can be found through accepting each other, agreeing on the principle of reciprocal recognition, and starting the negotiations. However, we must concentrate on a number of principles in our vision of the question of the right to repatriation. The right to repatriation is anchored in international law and was reendorsed by the United Nations in Resolution 194 from 11 December 1948. Let me draw your attention to the fact that UN Resolution 273 from 11 May 1949, which admitted Israel to the international community, contains a clause obliging Israel to respect the UN Charter and accept all previous UN resolutions on the Palestinian question, including UN Resolution 194.

Hence, the right to repatriation is a sacred right, because it is connected with the essence of our legitimate right, but we will accept negotiations on the condition that this right should be implemented. Resolution 194 will be the basis for discussions on this issue.

You also fear the framework of the peace process. Hence, I would like to stress that the Palestinian people need guarantees, like the other parties—and even more than other peoples—because the Palestinian people have gone from one loss to another, from one siege to another, and from one massacre to another. These guarantees can be obtained only from the superpowers and the United Nations, as in various international problems in other areas of the world, as well as through the participation of the concerned regional parties. This explains our insistence on an international framework for the solution that does not conflict with Israel's need for guarantees. This framework is the international peace conference.

In order to overcome obstacles in the way of the international conference—obstacles that originally resulted from Israel's intransigence supported and protected by the United States—to create an atmosphere of confidence, and to overcome Israeli concerns, the PLO has agreed to hold a dialogue between representatives of the Israeli Government and the Palestinian people. This dialogue will be held inside and outside [the occupied territories] on the understanding that the dialogue be part of the comprehensive and final settlement and that its agenda include all the ideas, proposals, and issues—including the elections and the Egyptian 10-point plan. By rejecting the principle of dialogue with the PLO, by insisting on disrupting the unity of the Palestinian people, by refusing to apply the provisions of Resolution 242, and by rejecting the principle of land for peace, the Israeli Government does not only hamper the peaceful settlement process, but also undermines the propagandistic implication of the election plan, which it claims as its plan. By misleading world and Israeli public opinion, by gaining time to prolong the suffering of the Palestinian people, by quelling the intifadah, and by creating new demographic and political facts in the occupied Palestinian territories, Israel is hampering the peace settlement, freezing the peace process, and creating, whether we like it or not, a new destructive explosion in the region, which is already saturated with nuclear, chemical, and conventional weapons. Is this the Israeli leadership's option? Regarding our option, we have affirmed and still affirm that we want peace. We want the peace of the brave, not the peace of surrender or victor and vanquished.

The PLO has presented all the commitments it could to achieve a solution and laid down grounds for a comprehensive peace that is based on international legitimacy, taking into account the balance of interests of all parties to the conflict. However, the PLO has not obtained from the official Israeli side any positive response or any commitment to the peace process. The Israeli Government walked in the opposite direction, continued to disregard the international unanimity and the calls of the Jewish communities. This government ignored all international peace initiatives, and continued to escape from the future through insistence on aimless traveling in the past and its myths and on walking against the tide of history and the winds of change that are blowing at all backward and frozen minds.

Despite this, we will not relinquish the message of peace which we raised—until the end—for the sake of our and your children. The arrogance of the official circles in Israel will not deter us. We are looking to this meeting with optimism; we are looking for interaction of the message of a just and comprehensive peace in the awareness of the Israeli peace partisans—individuals and groups—and in the depth of world Jewish conscience. All those attending should form a moral and material pressure force to protect the Israeli human being from their leadership's devastating stubbornness in defense of their spiritual values and to safeguard their human values. Your moral and practical effect is big in Israel and elsewhere. We are expecting a great deal from your meeting to put pressure on the Israeli Government to continue with the peace process.

Throughout the history of mankind, Jews have played a prominent role in the battles to defend freedom and humanity. Here, we should note the great men—the leaders of Jewish communities in the world—who always adopted these lofty stands.

Among the important issues which I address to you and call on you to discuss is the Israeli Government's attempt to use the rights recently gained by the Soviet Jews as a scourge directed against Palestinian rights. Here, I would like to reiterate in front of you our stand on this matter unequivocally: We support the individuals' right to move and respect their freedom to choose the country in which they want to live. This right, however, has limits like any other rights; they can be defined as follows:

The limits of any right are drawn by the right of other people and cannot be achieved at the expense of the other people. This right is the Palestinian people's right to live in their homeland and their right to resist the attempt to uproot, displace, and expel them. This is in addition to the Jewish emigrant's right to choose the country he wants to emigrate to, not to be driven by force against his will to where he does not want to go. This compulsory emigration will gradually lead—whether we like or not—to serious explosions that would deal a devastating blow to all settlement efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is a historic opportunity before our region to achieve peace. Waste not the opportunity, because delay and procrastination mean that years of destruction, death, and tragedies will pass before other appropriate opportunities arise.

Peace is inevitable. The only question that remains is whether we will achieve peace today or whether thousands of our children must still be sacrificed on the altar of unrealistic aspirations.

Peace here, here. Peace now, now. Peace for us, peace for you, peace for our and your children; for our and your women. Peace for a future in which we build, not demolish. Peace for the land of peace, the land of prophets and messengers. Peace of prophets and messengers.

Senior Delegation Said Ready To Visit Moscow

PM2302113490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Feb 90 p 5

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will soon be sending a high-ranking Palestinian delegation to Moscow to convey to the Soviet leadership the PLO's position on the immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine and to explain the negative and severe repercussions such immigration would have for the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

The delegation is expected to be headed by PLO Executive Committee Member Abu-'Ali Mustafa and to include Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh (Democratic Front), Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] (Fatah), Sulayman al-Najjab (Communist Party), and 'Abdallah al-Surani (independent).

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources in the Egyptian capital that the Palestinian leadership has sent messages to all the Arab leaders, presidents, and kings requesting that the immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, the question of Afro-Arab relations, and the question of relations with East European states be included on the agenda for the ordinary Arab summit conference expected to be held in Saudi Arabia.

The sources also told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has sent a message to his Egyptian counterpart emphasizing that the law permitting Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union was irrevocable and could not be reconsidered or amended, and that the matter was not open to discussion.

Shevardnadze said that Moscow could discuss the negative consequences of emigration from the Soviet Union. He noted that discussion of these consequences transcends the confines of Arab-Soviet relations because other parties were involved, especially the United States and the transit states.

Shevardnadze called for the stepping up of current contacts to prevent the settlement of Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He promised to make contacts in this respect, provided there is "joint coordination."

Syrian-Palestinian Contacts Reported

PM2802105290 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 27 Feb 90 p 10

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that a telephone conversation took place a few days ago between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. This has been confirmed by informed Palestinian sources in Cairo. In an exclusive statement to AL-MAJALLAH, these sources said that 'Arafat's talks with Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Tunis during the Arab League meetings there laid down guidelines for Syrian-Palestinian relations. They added that a high-level Palestinian delegation will visit Damascus in the near future to initiate a new phase of relations.

PLO's Al-Najjab on Communist Party Draft Program

JN2802112790 Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 26 Feb 90 p 19

[Interview with Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the Palestinian Communist Party Political Bureau and the PLO Executive Committee, by an unidentified reporter in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Why was the draft program introduced? Was it due to international developments or local and personal motives; what were they?

[Al-Najjab] We do not deny the impact of international developments, especially the Soviet perestroyka, the new political thinking it has brought about, and the sweeping changes experienced by the countries of Eastern Europe, on the introduction of this program. But our general review in the Central Committee went beyond that. We tried to explore how conditions would evolve in the Arab world in light of international changes, with their positive and negative impact, and also in light of the democratic changes that several Arab countries are undergoing. As to Palestinian affairs, our attention was devoted to learning the lessons of the brave Palestinian intifadah and the requirements of its future evolution. We proceeded from the existing tangible Palestinian realities and our party's long experience. We came to the conclusion that it has become essential to draft a new program stemming from a more realistic and discerning view of the issues we are facing at the Palestinian national level, as well as at the Arab level, in this changing world.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Does the call for an alliance between your party and other Palestinian leftist forces mean the establishment of a "leftist axis"?

[Al-Najjab] Our party's alliances are as stated in our previous program. Under "national alliances," the new program says: "The party extends the hand of cooperation to all the forces that support the objectives of national liberation and independence without any intellectual or ideological reservations. The party believes that the PLO, which is the political embodiment of the national Palestinian identity and which, through the stages of glorious struggle, has acquired the status of the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, constitutes the political and organizational framework for the broadest national front."

The new thing in the draft program concerning Palestinian leftist forces is that it affirms the historical importance of the unity of these forces. It calls on the party to make every effort to cooperate with those forces that are

closer to it ideologically and politically and to translate this cooperation into union within a single party.

The call for the unity of Palestinian leftist forces will not be at the expense of the party's alliances with other Palestinian nationalist forces. It will also not be an "an axis" or bloc within the framework of the PLO. This is an internal issue concerning the unification of Palestinian leftist forces. This call is not addressed to a certain single party, but is addressed to all forces that have similar ideologies and political views wherever they may be in the Palestinian national movement and inside or outside leftist groups.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Do you plan to change the party's name?

[Al-Najjab] We are proud of our party's name, which has been engraved in the minds of our people for decades thanks to its struggle, defense of our national objectives, and steadfastness of its strugglers. The party member's only privilege, throughout the history of the party, has been many years of imprisonment, clandestine action, martyrdom, and perscution at the hands of our people's enemies. Therefore, we do not consider changing the party's name an urgent issue.

Our success in joining Palestinian leftist forces into a single party will raise the question of a name change. We would then be ready to discuss this issue.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Ideologically, how do you view Marxism-Leninism, and how do you apply it in your realistic understanding of the society?

[Al-Najjab] Our party applies dialectical Marxism in understanding and changing our situation. The historical experience shows the extent of damage caused to this revolutionary course by attempts to turn it into a rigid doctrine. Lenin was one of the best students of Marx in applying Marx's dialectical course and understanding and changing the facts of his age. Therefore, we reaffirm this course and its dialectics in dealing with the ever-changing facts and the special Palestinian situation in particular.

By following the principles of socialist thought and the values of freedom, equality, progress, and social justice, our party adheres, in theory and practice, to the Palestinian peoples' national traditions, the facts of the revolutionary experiences of the Arab people, and everything progressive in the Arab heritage.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Regarding the new bylaws, does the party allow new charters and blocs within its ranks?

[Al-Najjab] As is clear in the pages of the draft program, protecting and practicing democracy is a basic duty of our party. We call for the establishment of a democratic Palestinian republic based on a multiparty system, parliamentary neutrality, and equality. We completely agree with what is stated in "the independence declaration" in this regard. I stress this point and say that a party struggling to achieve democracy must also be democratic in its organizational structure. The draft program says: The party "is based on democracy within the framework of the party's central structure to guarantee the unity of will and action and allow the deepest possible development of the forms of democracy in harmony with the party's action under all circumstances."

A number of provisions are cited in the party's draft bylaws, which guarantee the minority's right to express its ideas, including the use of the party's internal publication. The extensive democratic practice and respect for the bylaws rule out the need for blocs in the party that may hamper the unity of will and action within the ranks of the party.

To guarantee the freedom of expression for the party members, the first term of membership of the party stresses acceptance of the broad lines of the party's policy, and not acceptance of the party's policy, as stipulated in the previous bylaws.

In order to monitor and investigate the work of the Central Committee, a higher party body, the Central Council, was formed as a permanent body that will hold annual meetings.

In order to guarantee the renewal of the blood of the party's leadership, the new bylaws stipulate that one-third of the members of the Political Bureau should be changed every five years and that the secretary general can occupy his position for a maximum of 10 years, after which he will not occupy any leading position in the party.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] How does your party view religion, and how will you deal with the religious forces in general and the Palestinian forces in particular, especially since you have opened the party's door to all forces regardless of their religious doctrine?

[Al-Najjab] Our party has never been against religion. Despite the ferocity of the hostile forces' campaign against the party and their accusation that our party is an enemy of religion, they have failed to hurt or isolate it from the broad masses of our Palestinian people. Our previous program stipulated that our peoples' spiritual values should be respected and their strugglers should be encouraged to defend our Islamic and Christian sanctities against Zionist aggression.

This aspect has been stressed and developed in the new draft program, both as mentioned in your question and as cited in Clause 17 of the list of militant tasks that calls for "respecting spiritual beliefs and religious feelings, and defending and protecting the holy places from the racist Zionist aggressions."

As for dealing with the "religious forces," we have never dealt with any political force on ideological grounds, but with political ones on the basis of these forces' political stands. The Zionists and the Palestinian people's enemies failed to fabricate ideological confrontations

among the Palestinian forces hostile to the Zionist occupation. We have always attempted to draw the attention and effort of all these forces toward confronting the Israeli occupation for the sake of accomplishing the goals of liberation and national independence and protecting the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole representative.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] What is new in your attitude toward women and their causes?

[Al-Najjab] Nothing new, but there is seriousness in the attitude toward women and their role and causes. For they are a genuine democratic force and their role is bolstered through national struggle for social progress. The draft program refers to both man and woman in the same manner and deals with them on a completely equal footing. The following has been cited under Clause 11 of the party's tasks: "Developing woman's participation in the national struggle, including her role in the political leadership of the Palestinian people; activating her struggle against all forms of oppression and discrimination at home and at work and in all areas related to her national and social rights to achieve total equality between man and woman in all domains; and seeking unification of the Palestinian women movement's organizations."

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] What are the tasks of Arab solidarity as you conceive them through your new program?

[Al-Najjab] Our party believes that the large challenges facing the Arab nation and the entire Arab order, especially under increasing subservience and backwardness, the exacerbating problem of poverty, hunger, and indebtedness, and the continuation of the Israeli occupation and the Israeli rulers' hostilities against the Arab countries, urgently require that we pool all Arab popular and official capabilities, effect the largest possible Arab solidarity and cooperation among the various Arab countries regardless of their political and social systems, and develop all forms of Arab economic integration to establish a common Arab market and liberate pan-Arab wealth from the domination of foreign monopolies.

In the meantime, the program stresses the need to consolidate our militant relations with all national and democratic Arab forces and to act in solidarity with them in the struggle for freedom, social progress, democracy, and unity.

In its attitude toward the various Arab forces and governments, our party is guided by the extent of their support for the cause of the Palestinian people's national independence, their sincerity in supporting these people's struggle, and their respect for the independence of their national movement represented by the PLO.

Algeria

Hamrouche Closing Speech at Justice Conference

LD2802215890

[Editorial report] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1216 GMT on 28 February broadcasts a 41-minute recording of Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche's speech to the closing session of the National Conference of Judges in Algiers on 27 February. Hamrouche begins by talking about the reform program, quoting President Chadli Bendjedid's remark that the goal of these reforms is to build a free nation, open to prosperity, and attached to its history and the elements of its Arab and Islamic character. He notes that Bendjedid also called for an end to the old political discourse and the old criteria of analysis which could distort the true facts, confuse the people, and ultimately obstruct the process of progress.

Hamrouche then says: "Such analyses implied that in a period of crisis and dwindling financial means the state would abandon its commitments toward its citizens because it is no longer capable of assuming these tasks. As a result it would put on the shoulder of every citizen the responsibility of assuming his or her problems. We say this is misleading. On the contrary, we say, and the program of the government says, that in a period of crisis the state must be present more than ever, because it must be sure that the burdens of austerity are not borne by the poor alone, and that political and social policy is organized in such a way that priorities are directed to meet the basic needs of the largest sections of our people. At the same time, the state must be present in the external financial powerplay to preserve the freedom and independence of our decisions. Therefore consideration must be restored to the state through a reformulation of the forms of its intervention. Its main mission as a public authority must also be recovered in order to preserve the rights of the community and its interests."

Hamrouche then refers to the need to mobilize all efforts and potential to utilize the national resources more efficiently and more economically, with emphasis on priorities in a clear framework and on organization of the citizens' contribution for the defense of their interests. The constitutional apparatus and the reforms are based on democracy and individual and collective freedom, he says.

In this regard, he adds: "Freedom is a condition for any real progress, whether this progress is political, economic, social or cultural. This progress bolsters, consolidates, and expands freedom. This freedom also definitely requires individual or collective responsibility, which should be assumed to guarantee the protection of society and its constitutional and social institutions."

He goes on to say: "Freedom of the citizen lies in the freedom of expression. It also lies in freedom of assembly and freedom to join associations, political or not. Freedom of the citizen also lies in economic rules applicable to all the working elements for the sake of the essential goal, and they require the mobilization of all domestic human, material, and financial resources in the best conditions of efficiency with a view to channelling these resources for prosperity. Freedom also lies in the process of the rationalization of the economy, in the clear freedom of commercial initiative, and in freedom of organization. This does not mean that the law of the jungle, where the supremacy goes to the strongest, should prevail. Not at all. There is no freedom if the citizen is not imbued with his dignity, his honor, and his religious values."

He adds the following: "Freedom is also the exercise of the trade-union right. In other words, the organization of the social-vocational sections with a view to defending the material and moral interests of the workers should be a democratic operation at the grassroots level with negotiations, consultations, and the ability to put foward proposals. The trade union is also concerned by the laying down of the enterprise's strategies and the satisfaction of the citizen's needs. Likewise, we must support the movement for the development of associations; that is, the freedom of the citizens to organize themselves into associations is an important instrument for the establishment of democratic organizations which would assume social actions that would lead to the widening of the scope of initiative and responsibility."

On the language issue, Hamrouche says that Arabic should soon become the working language in administration and official documents. He adds, to loud applause: "In this respect, the government intends to present a draft law which will regulate and protect the national language. It is also obvious that the need to confront the challenges and the wagers in a world characterized by deep and rapid changes compels our youth to acquire, master, and develop the sciences and technology. This can only be achieved through the mastery of several foreign languages. Because any nation that is not in command of the means of progress and that does not master sciences and technology will eventually be marginalized. We refuse to accept that our Algeria be marginalized.

"Brother magistrates, the changes engendered by the democratic process made possible by the 23 February Constitution, from the plurality of parties to democracy in general, do not mean at all, in our opinion, a return to the old practices pursued by the apparatuses and which led to alliances at the level of apparatuses and the top echelons. These alliances were made as often as they were dissolved. I regret to say today that such ideas remain in some political speeches which, under cover of a formal democracy, aim at maintaining the positions of some groups or individuals and attempt to reinforce them while putting aside the citizen and the people's freedom of choice, despite the fact that the Constitution is clear on this point since the choice belongs only to the people. We also believe that breaking any political monopoly of power does not mean at all that we will replace it with another or other political monopolies. We believe that the citizen is sovereign and the decision

belongs to him through his adoption of the programs proposed by the political and social associations. Thus, this freedom is built through voting and the results of the ballot box. Voting is the only measuring instrument for the representation of any political or social formation. Until the representation of the various current political and social organizations is established, the government remains prepared to accept any formula, be it a minimum social pact regarding social topics or an agreement over objectives which serve the homeland and which cannot be abandoned—such as the defense of the Constitution and democracy, the preservation of national unity and national independence—and over the major issues on which the development of society depends, such as employment and youth, achieved in an atmosphere of social stability. From here it becomes apparent that no new political formation can today put into effect its program unless it is endorsed by at least the majority of the citizens.

"In these circumstances, you may wonder about the reasons which led me to talk about this subject. The fact is that there is much talk these days about the existence of an alliance and about the formation of a coalition government to face up to the complex problems with which the homeland is grappling. I say thank God the country is well, the people are well, and the reforms are being implemented at a satisfactory and even rapid pace. Therefore, there is no room for any talk about a coalition government in the present circumstances. Let us wait for the forthcoming elections and the ones after them to see whether the people have decided to [words indistinct]."

Hamrouche continues: "There are also some people talking about the dissolution of the National People's Assembly, since it represents a single (political) trend. In the face of this, the political formations must admit in all honesty and evaluate with all objectivity the crucial role played by the National People's Assembly through its drafting and ratification of the legislative apparatus. It also made these reforms possible (?by allowing the emergence) of political trends and the reorganization of social relations. Moreover, the National People's Assembly has undoubtedly proven that it can rise to the level of the present stage and even that its democracy is stronger than the semblance of democracy which some are demanding.

The reasons for these proposals—setting up an alliance of parties and holding early legislative elections—stem in fact from selfish motives which have nothing to do with the interests of the people and of the nation because this would inevitably lead to (?a political crisis) (words indistinct) which would not allow the citizens to have their say and choose the progam which suits their aspirations. This in the end will (?undermine) the freedom of choice of this people. This is why I said that we must stress and repeat that the changes brought about by the Constitution are not restricted to (?the establishment of) democracy (words indistinct) but (?encompass) all aspects of economic, social, and cultural life. The reforms are also aimed at bringing out citadels for democracy and freedom. The embodiment of these citadels and fortresses, which are protected and defended by free men, are the laws which the judiciary should see are respected and implemented."

Continuing his speech, Hamrouche discusses the mission of judges and magistrates in society. In this respect he says: "It is obvious that this noble mission is based on a double necessity: the effective autonomy of the judiciary and the credibility of the judges, individually or collectively. We as an executive appratus must provide you with the means to protect you from any pressure or intervention, wherever that may come from, to enable you to exercise your powers in the best possible conditions.

After promising to improve magistrates' working conditions, he says: "The Constitution has given you an additional responsibility; that is, to examine and challenge all decisions taken by the public authorities. This is a new mission brought about by the 23 February Constitution and it requires you to prepare yourselves to assume this new task. This means that your duty will no longer be limited to the protection of the citizen from the arbitrariness of the administration and it will include our protection, in our capacity as an executive body, from any mistakes we may make in the course of our work."

Hamrouche concludes by focusing on the role of the judges in settling conflicts between the citizens, between citizens and the administration, in protecting society, and in being under the supervision of the people.

Foreign Minister Ghazali Postpones Egypt Visit

LD0103082490 Algiers APS in Arabic 0810 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] It has been learned from an authorized source that Mr. Ahmed Ghazali has postponed his official visit to Egypt, which was planned from 3 to 5 March 1990, to a later date. The same source added that the new date will be agreed with the Egyptian side.

To a question by APS about the reasons for this postponement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman pointed out it was due to the timetable.

FLN Central Committee Emergency Session Opens

LD0103112390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] The emergency session of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee opened this morning in the Palais des Nations in the Club du Pins.

The agenda of the session contains four issues:

1. The implementation of the resolutions of the FLN emergency conference,
2. The drafting of a strategy for the municipal and provincial elections,
3. The drafting of working procedures for uniting the energies of the popular masses,

4. Discussing administrative and financial issues.

Socialist Labor Organization Registers as Party

LD2802104590 Algiers APS in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Algiers, 28 Feb (APS)—The Ministry of the Interior has announced that a receipt for the deposit of a political association called the "Socialist Labor Organization" [Al-Tanzim al-Ishtiraki lil 'Amal] was forwarded Monday, 27 February 1990, for publication in the official gazette. The file was deposited 26 December 1989.

To recall, the file of the "Socialist Labor Organization," whose headquarters is at 25 Ahmed Zabana Street, Algiers, was deposited by its three signatories: Ben Mohamed Moustafa, [word indistinct] Hanoun Louaza, and Harfouni Abdelrahman.

This brings the number of registered political associations to 20.

Commentary on Anniversary of Saharan Republic

LD2802093890 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Commentary by Malek Benhacine]

[Excerpts] It is the 14th anniversary of the proclamation of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, an occasion for us to remember today that a thorny problem has not yet found a solution, despite the sacrifices made by those mainly involved and the efforts deployed by the international community. The problem is the Western Sahara, which is at the gates of our country, is a thorny one indeed, and cannot leave us indifferent even if only from a geographical point of view. Also, from the beginning of the process of the Saharan people's struggle against the Spanish occupier, Algeria has been at pains to point out the two basic aspects of the problem: first of all humanitarian peace, and to this end the Algerians cannot fail in their duty to show solidarity without the risk of going back on their word. Then there is the political aspect, which is a matter of setting this problem in its natural context, in other words that of decolonization, of a people's right to self-determination and independence, and the establishment and strengthening of harmonious relations among the different brother countries of the Maghreb with a view to their future unity. This is what Algeria has been working toward for more than 15 years now. [passage omitted]

The Saharans are demanding a free, just, and credible referendum and the prior evacuation of the 200,000 Moroccan soldiers, the 130,000 colonists, and the 30,000 civil servants of the various departments, a large proportion of which is reported to belong to the security services. This is where we stand today, at the time of the visit to the region—the second—by a representative of the UN secretary general. [passage omitted]

The Saharan side is still showing that it is just as ready as every for discussion. Following the resumption of the fighting it is not ruling out the possibility of another unilateral cease-fire this year to facilitate the dialogue between the sides, a dialogue for which the whole of the international community expresses its wish, and which alone, in our view, is capable of guaranteeing the peace, security, and stability of the peoples of the region. The Maghreb which is being built today brings together a certain number of assets—the Saharan people's contribution to tomorrow is far from negligible and cannot but be strengthen within the framework of unity, a whole which is already asserting itself, as a credible partner and an effective rampart in the face of the different upheavals which the world is currently experiencing.

Typhoid Epidemic Affects Mascara for Week

LD2802164690 Paris International Service in French 1500 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] In Algeria, a typhoid epidemic has been affecting the region of Mascara, in the west of the country, for a week. In the last 48 hours, 67 cases have been confirmed. The epidemic could be due to a defective drainage system.

Egypt

University Students Protest Mubarak's Policies

NC2802194690 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Thousands of Egyptian university students demonstrated on Cairo University campus yesterday to protest the policies of Mubarak's regime. Over 10,000 demonstrators hoisted placards assailing Egypt's ruling regime as well as the new interior minister. The demonstrators called for an end to the state of emergency and for a jihad against the Zionist enemy.

According to today's issue of Kuwait's AL-QABAS, on 26 February, al-Azhar University students demonstrated on campus to protest the repressive practices of Mubarak's regime. The protesters said that Mubarak's regime has betrayed the Palestinian cause. Egyptian university students pledged to continue their struggle until Mubarak's regime is brought down.

Sidqi Reviews Stand on Soviet Jewish Emigration

NC2602134690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi stressed that Egypt has not and will not approve the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories. Commenting on the People's Assembly debate of the government policy statement, Dr. Sidqi said: We have repeatedly stressed our position. Contacts are now under way to get as much response as possible from the Soviet Union, the United States, and the European countries in support of the Arab position. He

added that Egypt is holding Arab contacts to try to develop a united stand, and noted the great possibility that a statement on this issue will be issued very soon.

Dr. Sidqi said President Mubarak's statement after the Arab Cooperation Council summit in Amman reflected the Egyptian Government's policy. He added: As soon as the problem of settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories became apparent, President Mubarak contacted U.S. President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev. The gravity of the issue, as well as the need to avoid settling them in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, were clarified in messages to these two presidents, Sidqi said. He also noted that the foreign minister wrote to the EEC chairman explaining the gravity of the issue. He added that the EEC then met and issued a statement demanding that Soviet Jews not be settled in the occupied Arab territories, particularly in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Al-Baz Comments on Jewish Emigration Issue

JN2502092890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Feb 90 pp 1, 5

[By staff writer Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Egypt is ready to work in full concert with Jordan to heal inter-Arab differences, including the rift between Iraq and Syria, prior to setting up a joint Arab front to confront common challenges, two senior Egyptian officials said Saturday.

"We join our hands with His Majesty King Husayn to see whether there is common ground that will be sufficient to create a united Arab front that would be a front for peace, for stability and security throughout the region," said 'Usama al-Baz, political advisor to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid also expressed Cairo's total support of King Husayn's efforts towards achieving Arab unity and cited a statement by the Egyptian president at the opening session of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit here Saturday as reaffirmation of this support.

Mubarak told the summit session that Egypt "completely supports Jordan" against any developments or threats endangering the Kingdom's stability and the unity of its people.

"There is a pan-Arab and international commitment to protect Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity-...and to ensure its positive role in the peace process," Mubarak said.

In a short interview conducted on the fringes of the ACC summit, al-Baz told the JORDAN TIMES that Egypt intends to work with Jordan towards clearing the Arab atmosphere, which, he said, was being "spoiled" by the Syrian-Iraqi rift.

Al-Baz called on all Arab states to "join ranks and to forget about their differences because (the differences) are minor compared to the threats we face from the outside."

He said that Arab leaders were concerned over Israel's settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories because "it would encourage extremists in Israel to achieve their aims of what they call 'transfer'."

He added that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories would also result in the "negation of the rights of the Palestinian people to live" in the occupied territories.

According to al-Baz, who is widely described as Egypt's Middle East policy architect, the continuation of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine would "destabilise the entire region and prevent the peace process from taking its course."

Answering a question whether there were moves to convene an Arab summit to discuss the Soviet Jewish influx to Israel, al-Baz said it was not a question of holding a summit "but (rather) a question of having contacts and coordinating moves among Arab countries."

"We are waiting to see the outcome of discussion in the United Nations Security Council and then the Arab leaders would assess the situation...not before," al-Baz said.

He described as "sheer lies" reports that Soviet Jewish immigrants were passing through Cairo to Israel.

Egypt will continue its efforts to pave the road for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as a step towards achieving durable and just peace in the Middle East, 'Abd-al-Majid said. He blamed Israel for stalling the process.

"We want to see peace prevailing in this area but Israel has to show flexibility and respond to our efforts," 'Abd-al-Majid said in answer to a question on the status of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for tripartite talks among the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt and Israel leading to direct Palestinian-Israeli talks.

He denied that the peace process was dead but admitted that it was "facing difficulties."

Extensive efforts were needed to "reactivate the process. On the contrary, we are determined to prevent the usurpation of Arab territories," al-Baz said.

"There is insistence from the Egyptian and Palestinian sides to move ahead with the peace process and that is the essence of our efforts," 'Abd-al-Majid said.

He said that what was needed at this time "is a quick action so that we can have a tripartite meeting followed by an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue."

He said Egypt believed that the United States was extending all efforts to maintain the peace process.

In answer to a question on the status of relations between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO),

al-Baz said: "It is a very cordial relationship; we coordinate, we contact and consult to exchange information and views...the relationship is good."

Both 'Abd-al-Majid and al-Baz described the Amman ACC summit as very successful. "Our evaluation is that this session of the ACC has been a very productive one and more than positive," al-Baz said.

Al-Baz attributed the shortening of the two-day summit to one day to proper preparations prior to the holding of the summit.

AL-SHA'B Criticizes Anti-Palestinian 'Campaign'

JN2302173690 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
20 Feb 90 p 4

["News Report" by Mahmud Bakri: "Secrets of the Barbarian Campaign Against the Palestinians"]

[Text] The same people...the same hateful pens...even the very same dirty vocabulary...these pages have been reopened recently. Everyone is competing in a heated and barbarian campaign to distort everything Palestinian.

The intifadah revolutionaries and their leaders have not been forgiven. The whole world from end to end stands, stunned, watching the most fabulous epics written with their pure blood in their confrontation against the usurper and hated occupier. However, a handful of Israel's friends here have taken it upon themselves to block their ears to the voice of truth and to avert their eyes from the ugly massacres that are claiming innocent children, women, youths, and elderly.

Since the death of 11 Israelis in the Ismailia bus incident, hell's gates have opened. One Israeli in Egypt was so impertinent as to urge kicking out Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, although heavenly and earthly justice demand kicking out the Israeli ambassador—this spy who squats on the shores of immortal Egypt's Nile—as the minimum response to the Zionist crimes against our Palestinian brothers.

Last Saturday [17 February], all these writers prepared their weapons and threw everything in their pockets to take advantage of the misunderstanding between the brothers in the Egyptian and Palestinian leaderships.

The most barbarian campaign, in which the cursing writer played a very base role, attacked Palestinian struggler Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf]. We do not know the logic permitting those dwarfs to attack this giant, this priest in the mihrab [niche indicating direction of Mecca] of the revolution. We know very well that if they were to examine his biography, their dead consciences would not have let them utter one word against him.

If the issue concerns Egypt's dignity, as they are claiming to justify their indiscriminate campaign, where were they when Shamir, Sharon, and Kahane spat their filth against Egypt and President Mubarak?

This prompts us to discover the secret motives behind this barbarian campaign.

To start with, all indications indicate that official relations between Egypt and the PLO are very good indeed. This was reflected in the latest meeting between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in Baghdad within the last few days.

For its part, Egypt is concerned about maintaining strong relations with the PLO, out of its belief in the Palestine question and the fact that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole representative. The PLO also cares about its relations with Egypt, out of the belief that, throughout its history, Egypt has always carried the torch of the Palestine cause in international forums. However, some people took advantage of the Israeli tourist bus incident. Statements were issued that had no connection with official channels, accusing the PLO of plotting and failing to take appropriate action concerning this incident.

The truth, which AL-SHA'B obtained from Egyptian and Palestinian circles, is that the planning of the bus incident was purely Israeli; that the extremist wing in Israel was the mastermind behind the operation; and that when they picked a group of Palestinians to participate in it, they intended to portray the operation as purely Palestinian. The considerations that guided the planners, and the secret goals that led them to execute the operation in the way it took place, can be specified as follows:

1. The Israeli planners of the incident refused to have Asian or European paid mercenaries carry out the incident because of the lack of a pan-Arab or personal motive for those people to physically harm or kill Israelis. Their motive would be purely material. Therefore, Palestinian agents from inside the occupied territories were picked to perform this task.

2. Egyptian protests to the countries of these mercenaries—had they been given the task—would not have benefited Israel at all. According to the Israeli plan, these protests would not have achieved the goal sought by the Israeli extremists.

The selection of Palestinians to carry out the operation achieves two goals at the same time:

1. Increasing Israel's intransigence toward dealing directly with the Palestinians. This is what the planners of the operation wanted to achieve. They wanted to cancel the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and to hold immediate elections in accordance with the Camp David accords.

2. The hardliners believe that Shamir made a major concession in accepting the principle of dialogue with the Palestinians and in his coordination on this with Egypt. They also wanted to accuse Egypt of leading the strategic Arab plan to destroy and remove Israel and that President Mubarak had actually undermined the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

These are the reasons behind the Israeli operation against the Israeli tour bus. The operation was carried out precisely and skillfully in order to deal a blow to the whole peace process and to strain the close relations between Egypt and the PLO. Evidence resulting from the investigation confirms this fact and raises the following questions:

1. How were the Israeli weapons smuggled into Egypt, especially since Egyptian security authorities have confirmed that the weapons were U.S.-made and that they are found only in Israel?

2. How was the bus monitored, from the moment it moved into the occupied territories until the operation, with such scientific accuracy and faultless skill?

3. How did the Israeli woman who was inside the bus and who opened the door for the perpetrators flee with them and disappear after the incident, as two witnesses have stated?

There is information that, at a recent meeting of Ariel Sharon, Me'ir Kahane, and a number of Israeli hardliners, Sharon gave a briefing on the so-called secret plan to destroy Israel, pointing out that Jordanian King Husayn had formulated and signed a secret agreement with President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat in 1988. This was the excuse, a weak excuse as we see, that prompted the implementation of the plan to deal a blow to the peace process in the region and to hurt Egyptian-Palestinian relations. From the beginning, the planners believed that, even if the PLO denied its involvement in the incident and proved it, other Palestinians would exploit the incident, would portray it as a heroic deed, and would compare the incident with Israel's actions against the Palestinians; furthermore, that this would not satisfy the Egyptians, that tension would renew, and that parties hostile to the Palestinians would attack them.

Although the planners knew that this would not last long, they believed that it would provide an opportunity to hamper the peace process.

Apart from the goals of the planners of the operation, information confirms that some Palestinian leaders were dissatisfied with the Egyptian Government, which apologized, extended deep condolences to the Israeli Government, and held intensive diplomatic communication with Israel to justify Egypt's position on the incident—this, at a time when Israel did not contact Egypt to justify its massacres against Palestinians in Rafah and other Palestinian areas after the bus incident. These Palestinian leaders asked the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to stop pursuing innocent Palestinians in Egypt under the pretext of suspicion and security measures.

These leaders stated that the Palestinians are Arabs, like the Egyptians, and that they are more entitled to complete protection in Egyptian territories than are the Israelis. Then they began to criticize Egypt's position on Camp David and called for canceling it, ending all Egyptian-Israeli contacts, and stopping visits to Cairo by Israeli diplomats and tourists.

But Cairo protested this language, which it viewed as severe, and summoned Palestinian ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal to the Foreign Ministry to deliver a strongly-worded protest. He was also handed a message for Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat stressing the need for the Palestinians to adopt a unified position on the peace process and pointing out contradictions in statements by Palestinian officials and to their divergent views on peace, which lead to confusion and ambiguity.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that Egyptian-Israeli relations are not as cordial as some Palestinian leaders believe. In fact, tension very often overshadows these relations due to Israeli measures against Palestinians in the occupied territories. He said that Egypt has turned down many Israeli invitations to meet with senior Israeli officials in protest against Israeli behavior. He said that Egypt is doing its best to halt Jewish settlement. He pointed out President Mubarak's efforts in his contacts with Bush and Gorbachev for this purpose.

He expressed in his message the need for Palestinian understanding of the Egyptian position on this issue. The message also pointed out the need for the PLO to adhere to what was recently agreed with Egypt, so that people will not occupy themselves with secondary issues that impair the close cooperation between Egypt and the PLO on the one hand, and disrupt the peace process on the other.

In his letter, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called for continuing joint Egyptian-Arab efforts until a permanent peace is achieved. He declared Egypt's refusal to freeze the peace process until the Israeli Government had decided to stop Jewish settlement in the occupied territories—as the Palestinians had requested. He said that complying with their request would bring the Palestine question back to square one and that Israel really wants to halt all Arab contacts with international forces concerning peace. This stems from the reasoning that freezing the peace process would allow Israel to continue building settlements and settling Jews in these territories. The letter reaffirmed Egypt's dissatisfaction with some Palestinians' positions that return to the Camp David tune once again. It pointed out that the Egyptian position has gone beyond this and that the Palestinians must be fully aware of the details and nature of the Egyptian role, which has exerted every effort for the Palestine cause.

In its response, the PLO said that these voices express nothing more than their personal opinion concerning the incident, adding that the announced official position concerning the incident is the the one declared by the PLO only.

In light of that, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, Hani al-Hassan, met last week with Egyptian officials to discuss the issue. He said that there is a real Palestinian desire to overcome these incidents and end the emergency crisis in Egyptian-Palestinian relations. He said that the Palestinian president appreciates the role of Egypt and President

Mubarak in supporting the Palestine question. He acknowledges that the peace option is irreversible.

At any rate, the most important thing now is to prevent those trying to create a crack in Egyptian-Palestinian relations from succeeding.

Regarding Israel, the crisis is still creating repurcussions, especially after Ariel Sharon's resignation from the Israeli Cabinet and his demand to freeze the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and break relations with Egypt. The Israeli Government obtained important information from Israeli intelligence, confirming the involvement of Sharon's office in planning the Israeli bus incident and that one of his aides had the job of making the necessary contacts with Palestinian agents and extremist Zionist organizations.

The information did not rule out that this matter could be under secret investigation within the Likud Bloc and that it might be one of the reasons that persuaded Shamir to accept Sharon's resignation without holding a political dialogue with him. This explains the retreat in the Israeli official position of attempting to pin the incident on the PLO. The Israeli Government wants to exploit the incident to stop all forms of political coordination between Egypt and the PLO, until Egypt demonstrates its good intentions concerning relations with Israel. This request was presented to Egypt unofficially through diplomatic channels citing official Israeli figures.

No matter what, it becomes clear in light of this that there is a clear similarity between the Israeli request and what some writers have claimed, such as the need to kick Palestinians out of Egypt, distort their image, describe them as terrorists, and claim that they are rejecting the peaceful solution and that they are attacking Egypt's stability.

SFRY President Drnovsek Wraps Up Visit 28 Feb

Statements on Israel Clarified

NC2802131090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—A diplomatic source at the Yugoslav Embassy in Cairo has announced that statements attributed to SFRY Presidency President Janez Drnovsek and carried by Western press sources have been inaccurately reported. The source said that the reports attributed to the Yugoslav president the statement that he had informed President Husni Mubarak that his country will soon restore its ties with Israel at the consular level.

In a statement to MENA, the source explained that it is too early to discuss restoring diplomatic relations between Yugoslavia and Israel. He added that it is possible to restore these relations in stages and over a long period, beginning with trade ties.

The source affirmed that no decision has yet been made on restoring relations between the SFRY and Israel. He linked the possible resumption of ties with progress in the Middle East peace process.

Holds News Conference

NC2802165790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—SFRY Presidency President Janez Drnovsek has praised the development of relations between Egypt and the SFRY in various fields, adding that the two countries agree on several current regional issues. At a news conference in Cairo this afternoon before departing for his country, Drnovsek said that his visit to Egypt confirms the excellent ties existing between the two countries. He said that political relations between the two countries could not be better and expressed his appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's efforts to resolve the Middle East issue and other international problems.

Drnovsek said he and President Mubarak exchanged views on several issues of concern to both countries. He said: We expressed our readiness to expand our economic relations, because we believe that there are good opportunities for this. We discussed specific ways to broaden our economic ties and to find solutions to certain problems.

Responding to a question from a MENA correspondent on the developments in Eastern Europe and their effect on the situation in the SFRY, Drnovsek said: We are closely following the ongoing developments in the East European countries. We support these changes because they are important democratic movements. We in the SFRY had begun making reforms long before the events in East Europe got under way. He added: We have a great deal of experience, particularly in the economic field, and we are in the process of completing these reforms. He said: We also have similar experience in the political field, where we have made some reforms. We have accepted the principle of a multiparty system; that is, of competition in the political arena as well as in the economic domain.

Asked about prospects for Egyptian-Yugoslav cooperation in light of his visit to the al-Nasr car industry company, Drnovsek said that there is room to develop this cooperation and that this company has a successful record of cooperation with the SFRY. He said: My visit to the company was important in this respect and there is a desire in the SFRY to expand cooperation with Egypt.

On the anticipated Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, Drnovsek said that he, in his capacity as chairman of the current session of the Nonaligned Movement, hopes that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue takes place in the near future. He noted that there are indications that it will take place, which are the result of the efforts made by Egypt and President Mubarak. He said: We hope that a constructive dialogue takes place soon.

Asked by a MENA correspondent whether there is room to strengthen economic cooperation between Africa and the nonaligned countries in view of the fact that Egypt and the SFRY are both founding members of the Nonaligned Movement and the current chairmen of the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement respectively, Drnovsek stressed that Egypt and the SFRY played an active role in the Nonaligned Movement both before and after the latest nonaligned summit. He said: We exchanged views on political issues. Egypt and the SFRY are very close as far as their activities within the Nonaligned Movement are concerned. He said that Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU is extremely important. He noted that Egyptian-SFRY ties are excellent and expressed his hope that economic ties will be expanded and the problem of Egyptian debts resolved. He said: We discussed a number of solutions to this issue satisfactory to both parties and the payment of part of the debt in local currency.

Replying to another question on the effects of events in Eastern Europe on Third World countries, the president of the SFRY Presidency said: We discussed this issue during our talks because there is some anxiety that events in Eastern Europe could affect the flow of funds from international economic institutions. These events also contribute to creating an impasse in relations between the North and the South at a time when the debts issue persists. We believe that the developing and nonaligned countries must exert greater pressure to convene a conference with the more developed countries.

The president of the SFRY Presidency added that Egypt and Yugoslavia, in conjunction with Senegal, India, and Venezuela, are actively working to prepare for this conference which would discuss debts and other problems. He stressed that this issue will be at the forefront of the Nonaligned Movement's activities in the coming stage.

Regarding his talks with President Mubarak, President Drnovsek said: They were characterized by deep friendship. Our talks were sincere. President Mubarak and I held private meetings in addition to the talks between our countries' delegations. We exchanged views on the important international issues and the possibility of expanding our economic relations. He stressed that this consultation continued at the daily meetings between the two countries' foreign ministers.

Drnovsek said his visit to Egypt was very successful. He added that the issue of the Soviet Jews' emigration and their settlement in the occupied Arab territories will be discussed by the Nonaligned Movement's Palestine Committee which will meet soon. The movement will express its view at that time.

Replying to a question on Yugoslavia's relations with Israel, he said: The SFRY wants to establish normal relations with all countries. We established relations with the DPRK and our inclination is to have normal relations with Israel. We have expressed our hope that a solution to the Middle East problem is reached soon so that the atmosphere will be conducive and the conditions suitable for normalizing relations with Israel.

He added: We have economic relations with Israel and there is an exchange of tourists. We are willing to discuss with them the establishment of consular representation at this stage.

Drnovsek stressed that his country will always support the just Palestinian cause. He said: We share the view of Egypt and the other Arab countries that emigration to the occupied Arab territories must stop. However, I am not against Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union to other countries, such as the United States. He stressed that emigration to the occupied Arab territories must stop until the Palestinian problem is resolved.

He noted that he had said earlier that another place must be found to which these immigrants can go. Therefore, agreements must be reached with some Western countries to resolve this problem.

Departs After 3-Day Visit

NC2802155590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1511 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—SFRY Presidency President Janez Drnovsek left Cairo this afternoon after a three-day official visit. President Husni Mubarak led the well-wishers who bade Drnovsek farewell at the al-Qubbah Palace. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Spain

WA2702124590

For reportage on Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's visit to Spain, including reports on his talks with King Juan Carlos and counterpart Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, please see the Spain section of the 27 February and subsequent issues of the West Europe DAILY REPORT.

AIDS Cases Reported Among Foreign Students

JN2402082690 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 21 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] Employees of the Islamic Missions City have called on all officials to intervene to confront the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome [AIDS] in the city among the 2,500 foreign students studying at al-Azhar University, who represent 78 nationalities.

In memorandums and cables to the officials, the officials expressed fears of having contracted AIDS after mingling with students. Reports said that the number of those infected with AIDS had risen to 12. The latest case was that of a student from Burundi who entered the country two months ago despite being infected. Another student came from the Ivory Coast, and has been admitted to Hamyat al-'Abbasiyah Hospital. He managed to escape from the hospital. The city administration submitted a warning to the hospital after it found out

that the student had not left the country and that the infection had not taken place due to a blood transfusion or any other health reason.

One of the supervisors in the city said that the Ivory Coast Embassy had been informed, but had refused to take any action, claiming that the issue concerns the city administration. The student is still inside the city. No measures to protect the rest of the students have been taken.

Members of the unionist committee in the Islamic Missions City have demanded that complete medical checkups be carried out on all 648 employees to allay fears that the virus has been transferred to them.

Answering a question on the cases of infection and means of protection, Dr. Iliya Hafez, hospital director, said that the hospital merely takes care of infected students, and the responsible side is the preventive medicine department. When confronted, Dr. Hasan al-Dib, deputy health minister for preventive medicine, denied the presence of AIDS cases. He said it was merely sensational news. Dr. Dib's answer comes despite the continuing messages by the general supervisor of the city to the ministry on the necessity of sending a medical delegation to check the students along the lines of what happened in 1988, when six cases were discovered from a random sample. After that, the ministry stopped carrying out such checks. In addition, the cases that came up later on were discovered through a check on students in al-Azhar University.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Arab-Arab Topics

JN2602113690 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Feb 90 pp 6, 7

[Interview with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by AL-AHRAM editor in chief Ibrahim Nafi' in Aswan, Egypt—date not given]

[Text] Ibrahim Nafi': It might be suitable and logical, brother colonel, to begin our dialogue from last month's Tunis meeting, which was the latest major Arab event. What is your assessment of the political and economic performance of the Arab Maghreb Union, and how do you view the mechanism by which full coordination and cooperation can be achieved among the three Arab groupings?

Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi: You know that we originally proceeded from the call for a comprehensive Arab unity and you know that in the past, colonialist schemes were proposed for the region such as the union of the Fertile Crescent and the Nile Valley, but the revolutionaries and unionist Arabs resisted these schemes at that time and considered them a fragmentation of the Arab nation and the one homeland and people. They called for comprehensive unity from the Ocean to the Gulf. Afterward, all Arab or pan-Arab slogans as well as the Nasirist slogans called for Arab unity. This was in the past. Now we have reached a stage in which serious downfalls occurred on the pan-Arab level and during which the nation's hopes for unity were shattered and challenges that fragmented the nation emerged. Therefore, there came the decision to rescue what could be salvaged, and we began to accept these groupings. We said if colonialism sought for these groupings to be secessionist or fragmentary to Arab unity, why don't we do the opposite of what is sought in order to unite the Arab nation by means of these groupings? The matter, however, hinges upon the active powers in these groupings. If these powers are effective and influential, they will be serious and loyal to this nation even if this unity is—God forbid—called opportunist or might deal a mortal blow to the Arab nation and fragment the one homeland. What is certain is that the Arab brothers forming these councils feel the need for Arab unity. They realize that it is a special requirement, especially after the emergence of European unity and European changes. We have entered an era where no country will be able to make it on its own and without being part of a group. This applies even to the big nuclear powers like France and Britain. They have found out that henceforth they cannot continue in this age alone, and they should be grouped in one bloc in the EEC, and that they might turn into one state. But do our Arab groupings have the same principled proceedings for a comprehensive Arab unity? I presented a plan called the Arab Union and merged it with the Arab League Charter amendment program. It was adopted by the Casablanca summit conference and by President Mubarak, who attended the summit. By this plan I attempted to group the three councils together, in addition to the Arab countries that are not members of any of them. This is aimed at turning the summit conferences into specialized presidency councils; that is, a council for the foreign ministers, a council for industry and agriculture, and so forth. These councils would be given an economic content within the political framework—and this is the most important thing—through the establishment of an Arab authority for borders, an Arab authority for water, gas, and electricity, and so forth. Economic unity would take place within this formula. We are, however, at the beginning and it is difficult to predict how the picture will be tomorrow. But we have to draw the picture we want and attempt to move the given facts in the direction of the required picture which fulfills the nation's hope for unity.

Nafi': But does the brother colonel still believe in the possibility of setting up a common Arab market shortly that would impose a new unified Arab will?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The Arab market was there. I mean it was decided in the Arab League agreements ... and the Arab defense. The fact is that the past agreements concluded under the Arab League were much better than the European agreements under the EEC. But our agreements remained ink on paper. The defect lies in the fact that there was no serious Arab desire to implement them. Therefore, when the setting up of specialized Arab councils was proposed, the aim was to breathe life into

the Arab League agreements and treaties, because once we apply them we will achieve much more than the EEC can do.

Nafi': Brother Colonel, I believe that the most serious issue with which the Arabs are preoccupied now is the search for the best method to embark on a comprehensive Arab move to face the immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine. In your opinion, what is the practical way to avert this danger while maintaining the peace process?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is a very important question. There is no doubt this emigration constitutes a grave threat to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. The direct consequences are represented by seizing the rest of the Arab land and expelling more Palestinians from Palestine. This migration could also lead to war, because the presence of Jews in greater numbers on this land, Palestine, will entice them to expand at the expense of the Arabs, to establish their greater state, and to seek the realization of their historical dream of a greater state extending from the Euphrates to the Nile.

Hence, I record from the beginning that this emigration constitutes a danger to the Arab nation. However—regrettably—in order not to deceive the Arab masses, I say that nothing can prevent it, even if we meet in an Arab summit or anything else. This is because the USSR cannot stop the Jewish immigration to Palestine; it does not have reasons to do so. On the other hand, this emigration is a basic condition the United States set to the USSR in return for the current detente, disarmament, and assistance and loans from the West.

Therefore, America, not the USSR, is the first party responsible for this immigration. And U.S. money encouraged the immigrants to buy Arab land and to settle on it. The USSR only allows them to leave; it does not give them money to live and settle on Arab land. The billions of U.S. dollars help them do this and supply them with arms.

In light of all this, I doubt very much that the Arabs will convene an anti-U.S. conference. This is a serious game. If a statement were to be issued that the Arabs are going to hold an anti-Soviet conference because of the Soviet immigration to Palestine, this would drive a wedge in Arab-Soviet relations to further isolate the Arabs and place them under U.S. mercy. Swift, dramatic developments are taking place in the entire world and the region, and could place us under a new fait accompli that might lead to war.

Nafi': However, didn't America announce that these emigrants were not allowed to settle in the occupied territory, but in other places?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I consider the land from the river to the sea an occupied Arab territory.

Nafi': And I do not believe that not even half of the land is not under occupation?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Are not Gaza, Palestine, and Golan occupied Arab territory? The occupation, however, came in stages—in 1948, in 1967, and in the 1980's.

Nafi': This is correct. They are talking about 650,000 or 750,000 Soviet Jews who will immigrate to the occupied Arab territory within four or five years. Will we stand with folded hands during this period?

Al-Qadhdhafi: What can the Arabs do if America ordered the immigration? Will they punish America? If they can do this, the immigration will stop at once, and if they cannot, the immigration will not stop. If, for example, the Arabs stop the flow of oil to America, boycott it economically and politically, and shift their friendship to the USSR, China, or Europe they might achieve something. However, I do not believe that the Arabs today can punish America.

Nafi': Is the USSR not a full accomplice in the crime of the age?

Al-Qadhdhafi: But they cannot stop the emigration. Soviet Jews asked for this and nothing can prevent them. We in Libya called—in messages sent to all countries' leaders—for lifting repression practiced on the masses. He who wants to leave can do so. This matter concerns the masses. I mean it is not the responsibility of the USSR. It is the responsibility of the Arabs in the first place if they are capable to stand in the face of the immigrants and liberate Palestine. The immigration is not only to Palestine; it might continue until it reaches all Arab countries. It might be a Jewish, black, yellow, or red immigration. There is vacuum that is filled by people.

Nafi': But might not an extraordinary Arab summit be capable of confronting the immigration?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It will not succeed, because it cannot stop the immigration or do anything. The Israelis cannot pledge not to settle the immigrants in the occupied territory, that is the entire Palestine, occupied in 1948 and 1967. There was nothing called Israel. The so-called Israeli Government announced that it cannot prevent the immigrants from settling in Gaza, the West Bank, Jerusalem, the Golan, or Southern Lebanon. So-called Shamir said that the immigrants are free to reside any place they want. And we ourselves cannot prevent it.

Nafi': Let us discuss this point. What do you think about the ideas that call for an integrated economic plan for the Arab world at large to secure a strong negotiating position with blocs that have appeared in the EEC and to deal with the subsequent changes that could occur there?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This now constitutes the crux of the confrontation. The fact is that all the Arabs feel that there is a new world and new challenges. This is what led to the quick emergence of the Arab cooperation bodies. I am optimistic that we will reach a certain level of unity—of which we dream—since this will give us a stronger negotiating position with the world blocs.

Nafi': Is this merely a feeling, Your Excellency?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No. We began actual movement since the emergence of these three bodies and the approval of the Arab union plan. It was difficult for such a to plan be approved. However, it was approved at the Casablanca summit conference. Therefore, it is not merely an optimistic feeling. It is a feeling that has prompted action.

Nafi': In the view of Col. Al-Qadhdhafi, how can the largest degree of Arab-African cooperation be achieved to confront the problems facing the Arab and African states together?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Certainly, the Arabs and the Africans are very close to each other, especially since half of the Arabs are Africans. However, there is a colonialist plot against this cooperation. Among the links of this conspiracy has been the creation of a Libyan-Chadian problem, the southern Sudan problem, and the conflict between Mauritania and Senegal and between Somalia and Ethiopia. The confrontation between the Arabs and Africans has begun to extend from Somalia to Mauritania. This is a grave development that is not in the interest of the Arabs, especially since Senegal, Mali, Niger, Chad, Tanzania, and Ethiopia have an Islamic majority influenced by Arab culture and the Arabic language. Even racially, these nations have Arab blood running in their veins. They cannot avoid more cohesion and the establishment of an Arab-African union. For example, Mali, Niger, and Chad may join the Arab Maghreb Union. This is a call which I raise. However, there is currently an extremely serious plot that has proved successful to a great extent. This plot is aimed at effecting a rift between the black Africans and the Arabs or between the Africans and the Arab Africans. Colonialism sympathized with others against Libya, Mauritania, Sudan, and Somalia. Even the Islamic African peoples—the closest to the Arabs and Muslims—have been deceived by this stand. The U.S. peace groups have played a major destructive role in this plot.

Nafi': Therefore, should we continue to track this plot?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Definitely. We must assert that Arab-African unity is a fateful unity. We must expose the hidden conspiracy behind every dispute, such as the Senegal-Mauritania and the Chad-Libya disputes. All these disputes must be resolved through friendly means.

Nafi': This leads to a spontaneous question about Col. Al-Qadhdhafi's view of the situation in Chad, Libya, and Sudan.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Regarding Chad, I say this country has fallen in the international game. Therefore, it will continue to be harmed, unless it departs this international game. The Chadian problem has been exploited and Chad has been turned into a base. Therefore, it is meant to be kept in a whirlpool to have a justification for interference in its affairs. Those being harmed are the Chadian people. They have been enduring civil wars for 30 years.

Nafi': What about Ethiopia and Sudan?

Al-Qadhdhafi: According to the "Green Book," nationalities finally triumph. Any country with various nationalities will be torn apart. This is the age of the masses. The "Green Book's" predictions, which have come true in the Soviet Union, will continue throughout the world. The so-called Ethiopia is like Chad. It is not one nation. It is made up of various nationalities. Now, it is being torn apart by national strife. You know that the map of the world will be finally drawn by national strife. There are different peoples in Ethiopia. There are the people who carried out the revolution, there are the Eritrean people, there are the people of Ogaden, and so on. In Somalia, the problem is that of power struggle. This is the age of the masses, and the masses are capable of wresting power. They do not like to be ruled by one party or by an army or a parliament. They do not even like to be ruled by the proletariat. Through such conflicts, the parties that have interests in it can make their infiltrations. Something similar to the Chad conflict is taking place in the African Horn, because it is a strategic area. However, what is more dangerous than all that is what is happening in southern Sudan. It is not possible to accept the allegation that this part is not considered an Arab land. We say Sudan is an Arab African state, but we do not say it is an Islamic state. It is an Islamic-Christian-atheist state. We do not say its language is Arabic, but its language is Arabic, English, and local dialects. Therefore, Garang's call for the establishment of a "revolutionary Sudan"—or a revolutionary state that is neither Arab nor Islamic—is denounced. However, if this design succeeds in Sudan, it will instantly affect other Arab states. Thus, they will have to reconsider their identity. However, our Arab existence from the Gulf to the Ocean is based on race and fateful affiliation. Arabism, which runs through the veins of every man in this area, has made him an Arab in terms of affiliation and destiny. In addition, the racial unity constitutes the backbone. It is very strange that all this is being reconsidered. Definitely if they succeed in Sudan, they will move to Egypt. If they succeed in Egypt, they will move to Syria. Then, they will move to Iraq and the Arab Maghreb. When identity becomes based on being an Arab, Muslim, Christian, or Maronite, the entire Arab entity would collapse. Therefore, there must be a serious stand alongside Sudan. Such a stand, for Egypt, is considered self-defense. When the Africans try to achieve independence and form a new group in south Sudan, this would constitute an influence area for a big power. It is more adequate for them to remain within a unified Sudan. I mean the issue should be dealt with seriously—by means of peace of war—because it is dangerous.

Nafi': Concerning all the discussions that took place on the Arab and African situation, President Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as a chairman of the Organization of African Unity [OAU] in its current session, has tried to take some positive steps toward ending the disputes and conflicts by peaceful means. How can we reinforce and enhance this move through future steps?

Al-Qadhdhafi: President Mubarak has a very active, dynamic personality. Also, he is loyal to any of his undertakings. However, his chairmanship of the OAU came during a period which witnessed a number of open fronts, which need close attention. But he is preoccupied with Egypt's problems on the one hand, and the problems concerning joint Arab action through the Arab Cooperation Council, the problems of Palestine, the intifadah, the emigration, the no-peace, no-war state of affairs, and the unity of Europe on the other hand. Add to all this the problems of the Mediterranean and the continuous U.S. aggression against Libya—and Libya is a neighbor of Egypt. So, President Mubarak is really fighting on a number of fronts. We have to help him solve some of the problems at least, among which is the Libyan-Chadian problem, which should be resolved during President Mubarak's tenure. There is also the less troublesome conflict between Senegal and Mauritania. However, there remains the dangerous imperialist conspiracy I have mentioned in which the Israelis have played a significant role, in order to make all the Africans our enemies. We have to admit the Israelis' achievements in this regard in Senegal, Mali, Niger, Chad, and Ethiopia. Of course, their focus is on countries that border the Arab homeland, so that they will harass the Sudan, Egypt, Algeria, and Libya, and cordon off the Arab homeland by Zionist action. This Zionist conspiracy has played an effective role in the African's prejudice against the Arabs. There is no African-Arab problem whatsoever; but there is a conspiracy against the African and the Arab among Zionist imperialism, racism, and the Crusaders.

Nafi': Is the latest on the efforts of reconciliation or mediation between the Palestinians and Syria, and Syria and Iraq, an important issue that the Arab citizen should know about?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It is truly regrettable that things should have gone this far, to the extent of resorting to mediation between Syria and Iraq, becasue there have not been solid reasons to create any disagreement between the two. On the contrary, both are ruled by one party. Therfore, this party should make it a priority not to abandon its interests in the two countries, so as to remain consistent with the demand for unity of which the Arab youths are convinced. So, if the party achieves victory in the Arab countries, unity will come spontaneously. If it achieves victory in Syria and Iraq, for example, then why not establish unity spontaneously between them. I think this refutes the Ba'thist arguments. The Ba'thists should have proven their credibility. But, instead of this, we are now talking about a mediation to bridge the gap between Syria and Iraq; while the land is common, the people are one, the party is one, and the grave threat facing them is the same—that is, Zionism and the expansionist ambitions it contemplates in the Arab nation. For my part, I have exerted a tremendous effort. I went to Iraq. I also went to Syria after the October War. I tried to reconcile them, and my efforts led to their meeting in a summit. Then, there was the Iran-Iraq war. Iraq said Syria has hatched a plot against it. So, after it was reconciliation, it became a conspiracy. The truth is that the conspiracy is that of the enemy. This led once more to unjustified boycott. However, we are sparing no efforts now to mend the situation for the sake of the unity of the entire Arab nation.

Nafi': What about the Palestinians and the Syrians?

Al-Qadhdhafi: If there is any disagreement between Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Syria, I say: West and East Germany have united, Moscow is uniting with Europe and the two are becoming one home; so, it is in the Arabs' general interest that they unite. In my opinion, the Arabs should immediately brush aside all their differences, for these differences are the real danger which faces them.

Nafi': After the al-Ta'if agreement, we have had some hope that the conflicting parties in Lebanon would come to their senses. But the situation today is more dangerous that it was in the first place. The forces of 'Awn and Ja'ja' are turning the situation into a real disaster. Is there a solution? I know your opinion in advance on the approach of the Arab summit regarding such a case. But, don't you think that intensifying consultations among the Arab presidents may stop this dangerous bleeding?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The Arabs' meeting in a summit is something good. It gives confidence. For, when any part of the body is injured, the whole body takes care of this part. This is beautiful. However, practically, there are facts which affect the results. We have a Muslim Arab and a Christian Arab. The Muslim Arab is split into Druze, Sunni, and Shiite. The Christian, on the other hand, is split into Orthodox, Maronite, and Catholic. This cannot be resolved at a summit meeting. However, it can be resolved through a real unionist action in the region which rallies all the Arabs around one course of action. When this happens, pan-Arabism would triumph and exterminate sectarianism. In 'Abd-al-Nasir's time, when the banner of unity and pan-Arabism was upheld, sectarian notions were disunited and brushed aside. Lebanon, then, was a bulwark of Arabism attached to 'Abd-al-Nasir. Because the call for unity and pan-Arabism is now weak, the call for sectarianism has replaced it. Lebanon is now revolving in the latter's orbit. Moreover, contradictory elements are interacting within this orbit fueling the conflict we are witnessing. As for describing it as a disaster, it is truly so. The Lebanese people have sacrificed greatly for the Palestine question. They have also protected the Palestinians, who stationed their forces in Lebanon and made it a base for their struggle. All this is great. However, we can do nothing about sectarianism. We can rebuild houses, schools, and whatever. But sectarianism would destroy them again day or night, by the artillery of 'Awn and Ja'ja' or by the Israeli planes. There is a pan-Arab weakness which has had its bearing on the Lebanese arena.

Nafi': Unfortunately, this weakness is continuing.

Al-Qadhdhafi: And it will continue unless there is a serious Arab program that restores Lebanon's Arab affiliation. And consequently, it can discard the problems of sectarianism. We mean an action of pan-Arab dimensions, not a military one. The situation in Lebanon can be settled neither through military means nor through negotiations or al-Ta'if. I have pointed to the only solution.

Nafi': Brother Colonel, the problem of the age is represented by the shortage of water in many areas in the world. This serious obstacle might affect the life of many peoples in the region. Do you agree with this?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I am glad that the Arabs have begun to realize that the battle is a battle for water, and that the importance of water is not confined to us only. We said that the current battle is a battle for water in the first place. Meanwhile, the Arabs talked about political, military, and fedayeen battles. I told them that the military Israeli activities in the region are aimed at controlling the regional waters. When they responded to what they call fedayeen raids or the like, that was not the real objective. These are merely excuses to control the waters of al-Litani, Jordan, al-Yarmuk, and al-'Asi Rivers. These rivers are, in fact, under Israeli control. Israel aims to implement the Zionist scheme to control Arab waters so it can absorb millions of Jews in the Arab region and establish Greater Israel. The Israelis will continue until they control the Euphrates and the Nile. I gave lectures at the Libyan universities on this Israeli design. I asked the university students to pay attention to the Arab world and to the issue of water in particular. Israel tries to control all Arab water sources. I said to them that the source of the Nile is in the heart of Africa; it can be controlled in Ethiopia, Uganda, and southern Sudan. In fact, the Israelis are embarking on attempts in Ethiopia and Uganda. We recall that during Obote's rule, the Zionist control was very strong in Uganda. The objective is to suffocate Egypt.

I also said in my lectures at the Libyan universities that they will fear Egypt despite its profession of peace. They realize that danger will come from Egypt, even in the next generation. Consequently, they want to lay hands on the Nile sources to threaten the lives of the Egyptians. This means that the source of the Nile, which is the lifeblood in Egypt and Sudan, is not in our hands and can be controlled from outside the Arab homeland. And the Tigris and the Euphrates, on which Iraq and Syria thrive, are not in our hands; they are in the hands of Turkey. And Turkey might be occupied by a hostile force; and positions might change. A problem emerged from the Ataturk Dam that stopped the flow of water to Syria and Iraq. This shows that these rivers are not in our hands. The building of the Ethiopian dam, the Zionist ambitions in the Nile, and the problem in southern Sudan aim at controlling the Nile sources. And the Israelis are now pumping water day and night from the Jordan River to the Negev and pumping al-Litani into the al-Hulah and Lake Tiberias. I asked the Jordanians, and they said we cannot exploit the Jordan River. The Israelis have completely controlled it. The battle is a real battle for water. Now, after 20 years, the Arabs have realized the reality of the battle and we are beginning to feel the same Arab destiny.

Praise be to God, the mentality has changed now. However, I am afraid that Arab oases will dry up in the Arabian Peninsula, southern Egypt, Libya, and Sudan because they might be used up quickly, particularly if foreign companies are present in these oases. Such companies want to make profits quickly; they do not care about the future.

I asked the Arab agriculture ministers when they met in Libya to safeguard the Arab oases by using wind-driven pumps rather than conventional engines, and by keeping feudalism and foreign companies away from these oases in order to prevent the use of only one well in irrigating many farms.

Nafi': In simple terms, how does brother Col. Al-Qadhdhafi explain the Libyan term "Jamahiriyah"?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It means government by the masses. Anyone becoming 18 years old, whether man or woman, becomes a partner in power; that is, becomes a member in the basic people's organization. He will be the decisionmaker and the master. Laws in Libya are issued by the entire Libyan people. The Jamahiriyah basic people's congresses mean that the state is run by the masses, that power comes from the masses, and that there is no power above that of the people and the people's congresses and committees. It is useful that the following slogans appear in the Arabic daily AL-AHRAM because they constitute a document which is sometimes misinterpreted in other languages: "A partisan will betray;" "There is no deputization for the people;" "The parliamentary assembly rules in absentia;" "Let there be congresses and committees everywhere;" "Partisanship is an abortion of democracy."

Now the congresses decide things and the people's committees implement them and they are accountable before the congresses. Defense is undertaken by all the people who carry arms and cancel the regular army. Every area rotates in assuming responsibility for the local people's security and cancels the police. This is the political aspect. As for the economic aspect, the Jamahiriyah means the establishment of the society of partners on the debris of the society of wage earners. It means none hires workers. We do not tell anyone you are a contractor or company proprietor and you can hire workers. Hiring is for animals such as donkeys and buffalos, and not human beings. A human being should be a partner to what he produces. Workers who manufacture chairs take their share from these chairs. Thus, there would be no demonstrations or sit-ins. Thus, and for the first time, we find a radical and final historic solution to the problem of incentives. The laborer produces when he becomes a production partner. But if he is a wage earner, he might

be forced to strike demanding higher wages. Our slogan is partners and not wage earners. This is simply the Jamahiriyah.

Nafi': Is there an idea to change committees and congresses into parties or party pluralism?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Party pluralism is a stage preceding the Jamahiriyah and people's congresses. Party pluralism is an expression of the people's desire to largely participate in power. This is party pluralism. In the past, only a limited number of people had the desire to participate in power. Therefore, one or two parties were established. Consequently, the multiplicity of parties as an expression of a growing popular desire to participate in power becomes a stage leading to the Jamahiriyah, which ultimately leads to the people's congresses which we have reached, and by means of which all people become the authority.

Nafi': In any case, discussing this issue requires another dialogue and lengthy, complicated, and comprehensive talk.

Al-Qadhdhafi: God willing.

Nafi': Brother Colonel, to what extent are you satisfied with the progress of relations between Libya and Egypt? Do you consider it fast enough or slow? Do you not hope for something bigger?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Our hearts beat fast, but our hands and feet are slow. We, however, are trying to overcome this negative aspect.

Nafi': Where have the ties of cooperation between Egypt and Libya reached during the last few months in the light of this orientation, and what projects have been implemented that might bring tangible benefits to the two brotherly peoples?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We have started to pool our economic efforts for joint action away from politics, militarism, and other considerations. I am saying we will start to provide food, water, electricity, transportation, medical treatment, insurance, and scientific research. This means that we are thinking and do not stop doing so.

Nafi': In the light of this, how does Col. Al-Qadhdhafi describe the hopes, aspirations, and ambitions pinned on Egyptian-Libyan relations?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I would like to say that at present there is full seriousness and confidence in the possibilities of work now and in the future, taking into consideration the lessons learned from the past. We have huge capabilities in the two countries, both human and material. We have water and sea and rivers; we have the desert and the sun. With these capabilities and this confidence we can achieve everything.

Nafi': How about the performance of the ministerial committee for development planning, which was formed last month?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It is performing its duties successfully.

Nafi': What about the outcome of the recent talks between you and President Mubarak? Can it be considered a new step forward?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Certainly.

Nafi': Do you expect this step to produce clear, immediate, and effective results for the two peoples?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The serious work which makes the future may not produce speedy dividends. However, there are accomplishments with immediate results, such as the opening of borders, movement of commodities and personnel, and residence. This depends on demand and supply in accordance with the needs of the two countries. We agreed to free movement. This practice has spread throughout the Arab homeland. We have declared the removal of borders between Libya and Tunisia with a bulldozer. We declared free movement without passports. Movement has become free even on a world level. The masses have felt great relief. They have left their confinement. These matters produce special results. For example, if an Egyptian doctor comes to Libya and opens a clinic, he will be free to do so. We do not tell him he is an Egyptian and ask him why he opens a clinic here. If a Libyan, for example, goes to Egypt and opens a store, he will be free to do so. Such things are immediate dividends. However, strategic action has a somewhat slow outcome.

Nafi': But is there an agreement over strategic action?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes.

Nafi': Frankly, how do you view the future of the current understanding and rapprochement between Egypt and Libya? Perhaps, as much as the average man is watching these developments happily, he fears sudden fluctuations?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This was possible in the past. However, I believe that we are experiencing a stage in which we have many lessons to learn from. We have become fed up with experiences and fluctuations. We even fought each other in an improper manner. Perhaps we can see our harvest from the fluctuations, surprises, and problems. We reaped nothing but the waste of time, scorn of others, backwardness, failure of achievements, and all that has been accomplished has been ruined. Meanwhile, the enemy is watching us happily. We have grown up and become mature.

Nafi': Brother Colonel, I believe we have covered all raised questions and queries. Do you have anything to say to the Egyptian people?

Al-Qadhdhafi: First, I want to thank the Egyptian people for the heartfelt welcome in which all the people of Aswan took part. They shouted my name, and did not feel I was a stranger among them. We believe we are one people who have been divided by colonialism into Libya, which was occupied by the Italians, and Egypt, which

was occupied by the English. However, we the Libyans and Egyptians will remain one people. It was the Italians who installed the barbed wire. Regrettably, for a while we respected the wish of the colonialists. We should have broken and demolished it. I tell our brothers in Egypt: We are the sons of one nation. Libya is an extension of Egypt, and Egypt is an extension of Libya. The unity of soil and people is inevitable. This is not optional. Any problems raised between us are doomed to failure. Only our unity will triumph. I thank AL-AHRAM for making this opportunity available to me.

Libyan Envoy Holds Talks With Sudanese Officials

LD2802205190 Tripoli JANA in English 1639 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, al-Nawwar [February] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Brigadier Martin Milwal the member of the Revolutionary Command Council in sisterly Sudan met the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum and discussed with him matters of mutual interest for both sisterly countries.

The secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum also held a meeting with Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, the member of the Revolutionary Command Council and the chairman of the Information Committee and discussed with him informational cooperation and coordination between the two countries in the field of information.

Mauritania

Relations With YAR Upgraded to Ambassador Level

LD2802225190 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation issued a news release today in which it announced that the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Yemen Arab Republic have decided to upgrade the diplomatic representation between them to the level of ambassadors. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Prime Minister Karoui's Speech on 27 Feb

LD2802235690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1716 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Speech by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui at the Democratic Constitutional Rally's house in Tunis on 27 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Mr. Speaker of the House of Deputies, colleagues, brothers and sisters.

This meeting is within the context of the meetings of the cadres of the Democratic Constitutional Rally and the cadres of the state to exchange views and, through our cadres, to inform the public opinion about everything happening in the country in all fields, whether political, social, or economic. [passage omitted]

I addressed a message to the political parties and organizations in which I said: In implementing the president's address of 7 November 89, I invite you to a conference in which we will talk without an agenda. I summoned all the officials, the secretaries general of the political parties and organizations, and talked with them. I told them the agenda is open. Since the signing of the National Charter, and particularly since the legislative elections, the opposition complained about the complacency which followed the National Charter. The opposition complained that the channels of dialogue with the authorities have been severed, and urged that the dialogue be restored. All the opposition parties have repeatedly asked for a revision of the laws which regulate political life.

We found in the speech of his excellency the president the framework which has enabled us to have a dialogue and hold meetings, instead of talking to each other through news conferences, statements, and leaflets; the framework which has enabled us to conduct a dialogue, and the important topic on the agenda was the development of the laws that regulate political life. We thought automatically that this was in fact a response to the demands of the opposition: dialogue within a certain framework and the development of the laws that regulate political life. We thought automatically that the opposition's response would be positive. We would meet and talk without an advance agenda to discuss the affairs of the country in all fields, especially the political field since politics interests every sector. But what happened was give and take, newspapers published articles, there were statements and correspondence. When I asked: Give us your visualization of this supreme council when we meet in implementing the custom of dialogue and consultation as was stated in the letter; tell us your opinion of the possible nature of the Supreme Council; give us your opinion—some gave their opinion. [passage omitted]

Time passed and the president spoke on 31 December. Among the things he referred to was the issue of the Supreme Council of the National Charter. He said it will meet in the coming few days. And indeed we met with some of the [opposition] leaderships on 9 January. The discussion was indeed without an agenda prepared in advance. We talked. We had invited all the parties [words indistinct] political tendencies, and the four national organizations without exception. Some were absent, some attended. We talked without an agenda prepared in advance. We reached very positive conclusions. We presented proposals to which his excellency the president responded concerning the educational system. The political parties will send representatives to the committees reviewing the educational system which concerns all citizens. In the information field, the Supreme Communications Council was installed and it has enabled [the parties]—and more of these parties will

be able in the future—to broadcast, on occasion, through the media. Inevitably, comments and protests were made.

The third and important point concerns the reviewing of the electoral code in relation to the municipal elections. Why the municipal elections? Because the presidential and legislative elections took place in April 1989 and the municipal elections are in the offing. Among the laws that regulate political life without doubt is the electoral code.

A committee was delegated to prepare a draft amendment for the electoral code regarding the municipal elections. The draft was sent to all the concerned parties without exception—the political parties and the four national organizations. In some cases the replies were published in the newspapers before they reached us—as if this draft were final and cannot be altered or amended. We would like to stress that it is nothing but a working program. It is only a draft which is open for discussion, because the Supreme Council for the National Charter is a forum in which we discuss and exchange views and convince each other. This forum should enable us to meet each other, to know each other, to discuss and reach the best for the country. When the citizens themselves find that we, from different political parties, are sitting around one table, they will understand the meaning of democracy, the meaning of accepting the other opinion, and the meaning of respecting each other in spite of the political differences about some issues.

However, here is a word about the philosophy of the subject. Why is the government submitting this proposal for adjusted proportional representation? If we move away from the election by absolute majority in a single list and in a single stage, then this will be the only way to secure stability [words indistinct]. The absolute majority is the equivalent of instability. I was recently visited by the prime minister of a fraternal country. He told me we are the only country [word indistinct] still applying the absolute majority, and we appeared to be unstable. At that time he himself was threatened with a political government crisis. This representation enables the party which obtains the majority of votes with the highest number of seats to secure stability. At the same time it enables the parties, which are still weak, to enter [word indistinct]. This is why we do not accept in principle, which is our right, the absolute majority. As for the method of the majority—the voting with absolute majority on a list in one stage—it has been proved today in Tunisia that it does not leave space for other parties [words indistinct]. The multi-party system and democracy, which we would like to see in our country, are served best by allowing deputies from the other political tendencies to be present in the elected structures.

After presenting this draft on Friday, I addressed an invitation to all those concerned about this matter to meet again and discuss and see the proposals of the amendments, then we will gather all the signatories of the National Charter, including the various professions—engineers, doctors, pharmacists, lawyers, the human rights society, and the human rights league—and we will hold talks, and then present the proposals. This is because it is a consultative council and not a second House of Deputies. The Supreme Council for the National Charter does not exist in the Constitution. True, it is a consultative council. However, it allows us to hold a dialogue, exchange views, get closer to one another, and listen to one another, and when we reach some proposals, we present them to the president of the Republic who ultimately refers the draft to the Chamber of Deputies. The latter examines laws and decides. So much for the amendment of the electoral code.

However, as we are talking about elections, and in consideration of what we read in newspapers, we have to say—and excuse me for repeating myself as I have already said the same thing at the Chamber of Deputies—it is not appropriate, it is not acceptable in my own view, that political parties cast doubts on the objectivity of the elections of 2 April [1989] without ever giving proof of any rigging. [passage omitted]

There is democracy, but we should know that this democracy is not chaos, not careless behavior. The state of rule of the law does not mean a state without a law. There are limits, there is the freedom of others, the (?tradition) of others. [passage omitted]

We must walk in firm steps. There is no going back on the democratic option for us, but we should not believe that everything comes in one step without perceiving, without establishing firm foundations for this democracy, without cadres. Our steps in this country—which is training for democracy, which is learning about democracy—our meetings and dialogue with the opposition is only one of the ways, among its positive aspects, of making the Tunisian people become accustomed and showing them that there are people who differ in opinions but who have a dialogue and do not consider each other enemies. [passage omitted]

Democracy is not careless behavior and we should not give a bad example to our youth when we are today experiencing situations at the university which are not satisfactory: disorders, strikes, and violence. The regime of 7 November has wagered on the youth and particular on students. It recognizes two student organizations. It saw it more appropriate to see students organized rather than seeing them living loose at the university, since they are educated people who have reached a degree of awareness. They have views, they have interests—because the students organization is a trade union: there are issues of study conditions, work conditions, housing conditions, restaurants, schools, grants, programs. They have opinions. [passage omitted] We wagered on awareness and dialogue.

First of all, our system is characterized by dialogue in all fields and at all levels, as I mentioned before, either on the political or at university level. The minister of

education had accepted more than once to open dialogue with representatives of these movements. However, one should make one thing clear: opening a dialogue does not mean that you should impose your will on me. Dialogue means talking, trying to convince one another. I might agree with you on some points, but could disagree with you on other points. This does not mean that if I disagree with you, you should resort to violence, strikes, and prevent students from studying—because this is exactly what has happened at the universities. What is happening at the university is that a minority of students are preventing the overwhelming majority from continuing their studies because they want to be at the university to study, educate themselves, and build their future.

Strikes, hunger strikes at Zaitouna University, burning the university center in Al-Qayrawan during the sit-in there for 48 hours [words indistinct]. Is it possible that when the governor sends his son or daughter to study at the faculty he should not be satisfied about their safety? He should be at ease that his children are there to study, and particularly satisfied that that his son or daughter will not be subjected to violence. Who can guarantee the safety of students and continuation of studies? It is the state that assures this guarantee.

We should say this in all objectivity: Public opinion put the blame on the government, and thought that we were not doing enough. Some thought that such acts fall within the framework of democracy and human rights. If there were democratic and human rights principles—chaos, disturbances, sit-ins, boycott of classes [words indistinct]. Democracy and human rights are based on law, the state of law, and the implementation of this law. We are committed to democracy, because this is our choice and we will not renege on this choice. We are committed to human rights and the state of law. However, we cannot allow anarchy and chaos. Some people considered our action as weakness. In reality, as far as the state is considered and vis-a-vis its citizens, it cannot be weak, nor financially strong. The state should be just, and it would not be just if the state allows a minority of students to obstruct studies for 20,000 or 60,000 of our sons and daughters who actually represent the future of the country.

It would not be just to side with those who instigate these students, and undermine their interests and future.

Strikes took place, we carried our investigations, and it transpired that there is a significant number of students who [words indistinct] and who are determined not to allow students to resume their classes; they are even willing to accept a void academic year. [words indistinct] 391 were drafted by the army. We did not want to register their criminal records. This measure falls within military service requirements, and should not be seen as a punishment. The student has a right to postpone his military service because he is a student. [passage indistinct] But as long as he is a student, he enjoys the privilege of having his military service postponed. [passage omitted]

The state is required to perform its duty, it has responded to the demands of public opinion in general and the students themselves, the overwhelming majority of whom wish to resume their studies and are not prepared to waste an academic year. Our conviction is that the citizens themselves, who have children at school, are eager to see their children complete their studies and come back home to help them. These parents who sacrificed greatly for the sake of their children will not be happy to see a minority, which for reasons and aims which we will talk about later on, obstruct the rhythm of studies and undermine the future of their children.

What are the reasons that made us face this situation? There are three factors, which they are publicly demanding: first, to reinstate the Shari'a Institute to its former headquarters. They do not want to study at the documentation center. [passage omitted]

Thus we set up the Shari'a Institute temporarily and out of necessity to [words indistinct] The second demand: the demand to abolish university security. It is very odd for someone to call for abolishing university security when he acts violently at the university. [passage omitted]

They talk about the sanctity of the university. We experienced the sanctity of the university during the years of study in foreign lands and we experienced the acute debate that takes place among students, the insults among them, but we never saw a student punch another, because the sanctity of the university, on those cases, was accepted and worshipped. But one or many people choose the university as an arena for strife and violence, and we cannot turn a blind eye and let innocent children be exposed to acts of violence at the hands of a minority. [passage omitted]

The third demand is the return of students who were expelled by a disciplinary council [words indistinct]. They demand the return of four expelled students from Safaqis. If you do not re-admit them, there will be chaos.

They had a meeting with the minister of education and the latter never closed the door, the dialogue is open. However, it is not possible for us to be under pressure and even ask a mere question to the disciplinary council [words indistinct] a report or other. The disciplinary council however has a responsibility. It has the responsibility with regard to lectures taking place in the best conditions in its institute. For us to intervene to cancel its decision [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

No person is entitled to monopolize Islam and talk in the name of Islam or claim to protect Islam [words indistinct] and judge the Tunisians and judge who is a Muslim and who is an infidel and use religion for political aims and play about with the future of the country to reach political goals. The state in Tunisia of 7 November is the one which protects Islam [applause] and is the one which devotes itself to the radiance of Islam. [passage omitted]

Islam is the Islam of national reconciliation and not the Islam of sedition and of backwardness. We say this and state that there is a political background in the form of leaflets, speeches, and statements. Parents and students must know this. Students know [words indistinct]. The real trade union issues are marginalized even if they [the students] make in some cases some claims which appear to be trade unionist. Students must know this and must know that they can go back to their studies.

And parents also should know this. The students should return to study, and they have begun to do so, because there is not one in a hundred, perhaps one in a thousand, who is seriously ready to lose an academic year. We say classes today and yesterday are being held. Exams today and yesterday are being held in a normal manner. [passage omitted] We also mention that in certain institutions where classes were very few, among them Zeitouna, Nabeul, and Safaqis, officials have announced that in the future any student who does not return to his class will no longer have a right to a grant, to use the restaurant, or to housing. [applause] [passage omitted]

We would like to say that the assessment measures took place fast, and that the aid has been distributed for several days to the victims of the floods. This assistance was for damaged houses or means of production. The assessment was carried out in a realistic and objective way by unbiased people, because any person who suffered was granted the necessary aid. [passage omitted]

With regard to salaries, we have started social negotiations, and we can say that there is no doubt that the citizen's purchasing power has weakened. We are accustomed to be frank with our citizens and tell them the true facts. Purchasing power has dwindled, but we must recall that since 7 November, there were salary increases, and the wages were not frozen [words indistinct]. I would like to recall that these increases were as folows: the agricultural and industrial minimum wage increases took place in May 1988, August 1989, and January 1990. The overall increase amounts to 18 Tunisian dinars per month with regard to the industrial minimum salary, and 610 millimes per day for the agricultural minimum wage. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the state will have distributed around 48 million dinars from which 72 percent of taxpayers will have benefited, a third of in the public sector. The average of increases varied from five to fifteen dinars. [passage omitted]

In this context, I repeat here what I said to the brother members of the executive bureau of the labor trade union. I can tell them that everything is obvious. Let us hold a dialogue and discuss the way of distributing the available possibilities before us. Let us be fair to people. [passage omitted]

We consider in a very objective way that we should avoid strikes, because prior to the strike, we will have given all that we can give, with regard to our limited possibilities. [passage omitted]

Our desire is to agree on a three-year plan for increases spread over three years which will enable us first, to set up our programs and calculations, the budget, that of the state, or those of the public institutions related to the state; and second, to avoid social disturbances, workers' worries about wages and increases, and the employers's worries—who would not otherwise know how to program and accomplish their transactions. [passage omitted]

Oman

Iranian Envoy Meets Official, Brings Message

LD2802130990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Mohammad 'Arab, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Oman, this morning met with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and conveyed to him a message from Foreign Minister Velayati. At this meeting they discussed bilateral relations, regional issues, and issues of common interest to both countries.

Qatar

'Responsible' Source on King Husayn-Amir Talks

JN2802122190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Doha, 28 Feb (WAKH)—A responsible Qatari source has told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, QNA, that during their talks, the Jordanian and Qatari delegations made a comprehensive review of the Middle East situation and developments, and stressed that the international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned, is the appropriate method to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis and its crux, the Palestine question, in a manner that will guarantee the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights under the PLO—their sole and legitimate representative—foremost of which are their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil.

The Qatari source said the two sides also discussed the serious dimensions of the Israeli Government's hostile plan to settle Jewish immigrants from the USSR and Eastern Europe in occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, thus flouting the principles of international legitimacy, human rights, and UN resolutions. On this issue, Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani briefed the Jordanian monarch on the results of his recent talks in Paris with French President Francois Mitterrand and in London with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher regarding the Soviet Jews' immigration to occupied Arab territories. He also conveyed to his majesty the two leaders' understanding of the Arab viewpoint.

The source added Jordan and Qatar warned against the consequences of this illegal action, which only will further complicate the efforts under way to reach a lasting and comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis. They also warned against the extreme danger of this action to Palestinian rights and pan-Arab security. They said this action is clear evidence of Israel's expansionist designs on other peoples' territory.

The responsible source added that Jordan and Qatar stressed the need for unified and effective Arab action on all levels to mobilize efforts to defend Arab interests and rights in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

The two sides also hailed the valiant Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories as the legitimate right to resist the Israeli occupation, which usurped rights and land, and to confront the repressive and inhuman measures carried out by the hateful occupation troops. They stressed how important it was to support the intifadah until it achieves its objectives.

The source added the talks also dealt with the current situation between Iraq and Iran, that the two sides expressed dissatisfaction with the continuation of the state of no war no peace between the two countries, and that they stressed the need for the two countries to achieve just, lasting, and comprehensive peace, expressing the hope they soon would resume direct negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary general to reach the aspired settlement and implement UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The source pointed out the Jordanian monarch briefed the Qatari amir on the results of the Arab Cooperation Council's summit in Amman early this week. The source said the two sides stressed the importance of promoting cooperation and achieving integration among the Arab groups in the interest of joint Arab action and the Arab nation's exalted objectives.

The responsible source added the talks also dealt with the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, particularly in East Beirut. It said the two sides appealed to the warring parties to stop fighting and abide by the Arab position as seen in the efforts of the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee to restore normalcy to Lebanon and safeguard its unity, Arabism, and independence.

The source added that the two sides stated they supported holding an Arab summit as part of a comprehensive Arab action to discuss developments and issues of interest to the Arab nation, and to adopt a serious and effective Arab position commensurate with the level of the threats and dangers of the current stage being experienced by the Arab nation. The source added that the talks also dealt with a number of regional and international issues of joint interest.

It noted that during the talks, which were held in a fraternal atmosphere, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani expressed Qatar's understanding of and appreciation for the great pan-Arab responsibility shouldered by Jordan at this crucial stage in the history of the Arab nation, and he stressed the importance of continuing support for Jordan to enable it to play its pan-Arab role in confronting the hostile plans aimed against its integrity, security, and stability.

Concluding the statement, the source said the talks also dealt with the means of promoting the good fraternal relations between Qatar and Jordan in all fields, and

with expanded joint cooperation in the interest of the two people, the countries, and the Arab nation.

United Arab Emirates

Crown Prince on Immigration, OPEC Quotas

JN2802151390 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 26 Feb 90 p 1

[By AL-SIYASAH editor Muhammad Zayn]

[Text] The President of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], the government and its people believe that the Jewish immigration to Israel, is one of the most dangerous turning points in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict since 1967, the Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan said.

In an exclusive wide-ranging interview with the ARAB TIMES/AL-SIYASAH, Shaykh Nuhayyan added that the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine does not only threaten the occupied Arab lands of Palestine, but the rest of the Arab world as well.

Such unchecked Jewish immigration will lead to a dangerous imbalance in the population in favour of Israel, allowing it to annex the remaining parts of the Arab occupied lands.

He specifically commented that "emerging from its expansionist nature, Israel is looking to annex more Arab territories in the same manner that the Jewish immigration in the 30s and 40s of this century established the Jewish state in Palestine in 1948.

On oil quotas, Shaykh Khalifah said that the UAE has honestly worked for unity of OPEC and for the stability of the oil market and had undergone quite a number of sacrifices. However, he said: "We are waiting for other members to share with us this sacrifice" and for the moment we believe that we have become victims of all the agreements on oil production quotas. "It has now become unacceptable for us after the latest OPEC agreements to continue to bear these sacrifices alone and adversely affect our oil relations in the international market."

Shaykh Zayid Receives King Husayn on Arrival

JN2802161490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Feb (WAKH)—Jordanian monarch King Husayn arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates within his tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan led those who received the Jordanian monarch at Abu Dhabi International Airport.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Meets Visiting Iraqi Army Chief of Staff

JN2802152190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office this morning brother Staff General Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji, Iraqi Army chief of staff, and his delegation, currently visiting our country. During the meeting they reviewed fraternal relations, especially relations between the Armed Forces of the fraternal countries.

The Iraqi chief of staff expressed his admiration for the developmental and constructional achievements, cultural aspects, and the development in the Armed Forces. He affirmed this calls for pride and dignity and indicates the great progress our people have made in light of their glorious revolution under the leadership of brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

For his part, the brother leader secretary general praised the developed stage reached by the fraternal relations between the two countries, Yemen and Iraq. He described them as sincere, developed, and based on strong grounds of true fraternity, love, cooperation, and joint pan-Arab concern to serve the causes of the nations and implement their noble causes and goals.

Staff Colonel Engineer 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces and Standing Committee member, attended.

Ministry of Industry Inaugurates 3 New Projects

JN2502115090 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 25, INA—In one month, the Ministry of Industry inaugurated two large projects and decided to set up an aluminium smelter plant, a report published here today by the Iraqi English language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said.

Mr Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry, in mid January opened phase one of a big grain silo. The silo which cost 19 million Iraqi dinars (57 million US dollars) was implemented in 14 months instead of a planned 18-month completion period.

The silo whose total capacity is 150,000 tons includes 14 stores for packed grain, each one is built on a total area of 1,800 square metres.

A day earlier, the minister inaugurated a die forging plant which produces 24,000 tons of die forging metal used in various heavy industries undertaken by the ministry. The ministry used to import such metal for large foreign currency sums. Work in the plant started in 1988 and lasted one year.

Also the ministry decided to build a large aluminium smelter project to produce 215,pp [as received] tons of aluminium per year. The design of the plant, to be set up near al-Nasiriyah in the south, is being conducted by a French firm in accordance with a contract signed earlier between the two sides.

The new smelter is planned to feed domestic industries with their needs of aluminium. Those industries cover fields of transportation, construction, packaging, electric power transmission and others. The implementation of the project will be divided into several contract which will be awarded to specialised international firms.

The main raw material will be provided locally from Iraqi kaolin and through long term supply agreements with international firms. The project is planned to start production during the third quarter of 1993.

These three projects were not the only ones opened recently. The ministry from time, announces the inauguration of new industrial projects up and down the country. [sentence as received]

The ministry is planning to set up more projects with concentration on heavy industries. The ministry used to run tens of light industries projects. However, following the management reforms initiated by President Saddam Husayn three years ago, the ministry now works on heavy industries projects.

The president's reforms called for cutting red tape in government formalities and curbing redundancy in state-owned establishments.

Following these reforms, the ministry put about 70 state-run factories for sale as a step to concentrate on heavy industries and to boost the private sector, the ministry undersecretary said when the ministry started its new policies. The factories sold included food, textile and construction material plants.

However, the ministry provides the sold factories with such services as consultancy, economic and technical feasibility studies and cost-effectiveness, together with raw materials and other necessary inputs.

In August 1988, the ministry put for sale around 47 state-run factories. During a meeting with Iraqi industrialists, exporters and transporters held later in the same month, Mr Husayn Kamil Hasan said the privatisation policy is designed to give a wider role for private sector to push forward Iraq's economic development, while the state will establish larger projects.

The government views the industrial sector as the booster of Iraq's economy and development. During the last three years, the government has raised industrial investment dramatically.

Industry in the state investment plan announced early last January gained the lion's share. The 5.6 billion Iraqi dinars plan allocated 2.965 billion for the industrial sector. Minister of planning, Dr Samal Majid Faraj, commenting on the plan, said recently that investment in the industrial sector covers 247 projects.

PRC Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

JN2802201490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—Qian Qichen, personal envoy of PRC President Yang Shangkun to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and PRC foreign minister, arrived in Baghdad tonight.

In a statement to INA, the personal envoy of the PRC president said that he is carrying a written message from PRC President Yang Shangkun to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The PRC envoy expressed pleasure and happiness over visiting Iraq and indicated that he will hold talks during the visit with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of Iraqi officials on international issues that are of common interest and ways to enhance bilateral cooperation.

The PRC minister was welcomed at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the PRC charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Hammadi Receives Visiting Bulgarian Official

JN2802180990 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 28, INA—Member of the Revolutionary Command Council and Deputy Premier Sa'dun

Hammadi received today Mr. Khristo Khristov, Bulgarian premier adviser and his accompanying delegation. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the minister of trade, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

Pakistani Minister Brings Bhutto Message

JN2802181190 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Feb. 28, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier today received a written message addressed to President Saddam Husayn from Ms. Benazir Bhutto, Pakistani prime minister.

The message conveyed by visiting Pakistani minister of trade and local administration was reported to be dealing with cementing bilateral relations and Pakistan keenness to deepen its relations with Iraq in all fields.

Mr. Ramadan asked the Pakistani minister to convey to Mrs. Bhutto President Husayn's greetings and concern over promoting and expanding relations with Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Trade Minister Meets Pakistani, Bulgarian Envoys

JN2802211090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade, met at noon today with Faisal Salih Hayat, Pakistani minister of commerce and local government, who is currently visiting Iraq. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral ties of cooperation and ways to bolster them.

In a separate development, Muhammad Mahdi Salih today met with Khristo Khristov, special adviser to the Bulgarian prime minister [title as received]. They reviewed aspects of Iraqi-Bulgarian economic and trade cooperation and ways to develop this cooperation.

Talks Held With Swedish Parliamentary Delegation

JN2802204690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—Parliamentary talks were held this morning between a delegation of the Iraqi National Assembly and a Swedish parliamentary delegation.

The talks were led on the Iraqi side by Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, and by Hanz Barn Frank [name as received], Swedish parliamentarian for the ruling Swedish Social Democratic Labor Party. Discussions focused on bilateral parliamentary ties and ways to develop them.

'Forum of Four' To Discuss Reply to Baker

TA2802122290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The forum of four—the prime minister, vice prime minister, defense minister, and the foreign minister—will convene on Friday morning [2 March] to discuss Israel's responses to U.S. Secretary of State Baker's proposals on the composition of the Palestinian delegation to a dialogue with Israel.

Minister Moshe Shahal, a member of the Inner Cabinet, is demanding from the prime minister that the decision on Israel's reply be made by the Inner Cabinet. Minister Shahal told our political correspondent Arye Golan the forum of four has no legal status. He said the decision only can be made by a forum whose decisions are binding on the entire government, which is the Inner Cabinet. Our correspondent points out Prime Minister Shamir has promised in the past the decision would be made in the Inner Cabinet.

Likud Ministers To Discuss Replies to Baker

TA2802163690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The Likud ministers will convene tomorrow for a discussion of Israel's replies to Secretary of State Baker. The meeting will be conducted after Foreign Minister Arens returns from Poland. This was decided this afternoon by the Likud ministers in a meeting they conducted with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan notes Ministers David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i did not attend the meeting. Moda'i conducted a news conference in Tel Aviv that coincided with the meeting.

Shamir 'Under Heavy Pressure' From Supporters

TA2802150190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 90 pp A1, 4

[By political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] A minister in Shamir's camp has said in a private talk that the prime minister has been under heavy pressure from quarters believed to be staunch supporters, and to a large extent he has reneged on his agreements with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The same minister said he doubted Shamir would be able to accept Baker's proposals in view of his condition within the Likud. Shamir also is under heavy pressure from the United States after sources made it plain they expect a decision by the Inner Cabinet as early .s the day after tomorrow to summon the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers next Monday and the Israeli-Palestinian meeting immediately afterward.

Despite the communique released by the Prime Minister's Office denying reports Yitzhaq Shamir has agreed to all of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals, stating he has not agreed to any of them, a senior source in Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' bureau said "Shamir's moment of capitulation is imminent."

The same source went on to say: "The prime minister is under the relentless pressure of ultimatums by the Alignment and the United States, as well as by many Likud members, because on more than one occasion in the past he has given in to the Alignment's demands and seen the banners he raised in public lowered in the face of reality. If in order to stick to his seat the prime minister qualified the Likud's political platform regarding settlements, there is no reason he should not follow the same course on the question of East Jerusalem and the deportees." [passage omitted]

It emerges from the draft proposal to be submitted to the Inner Cabinet that Faysal al-Husayni and Sari Nusaybah will not be able to be part of the Palestinian delegation as representatives of East Jerusalem. The Israeli proposal included in the "package" Baker presented to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens states the delegation would include one or two representatives residing in Jerusalem, but included in the population register of the territories, where they would own another house. Although they also own property in the territories, Al-Husayni and Nusaybah—considered prominent Palestinian leaders—are included in the population census of Jerusalem. An authoritative government source said although 70 percent of the Arabs of East Jerusalem own additional property in the territories, almost all are registered as Jerusalemites. The Likud refuses to choose from among them the representatives who would run in the elections on behalf of East Jerusalem.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to appoint a Palestinian who resides in the territories but keeps an office in Jerusalem has been rejected by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the East Jerusalem Journalists' Association, who lives in Ramallah and operates an office in Jerusalem. It consequently is widely believed other candidates in similar circumstances will refuse to be the representatives of Jerusalem in the delegation.

Another issue that might put off a decision by the Inner Cabinet is Shamir's demand the United States ensure the PLO leaders do not embarrass Israel by appearing in public with the Palestinian delegates during the Cairo meeting. It has been learned the PLO plans to inundate Cairo with its men during the Cairo meeting. [passage omitted]

Shamir Said Not Tied to Peace Talks' Timetable

TA2802201990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Feb 90

[By political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The major question at this moment is: Where is the prime minister heading? Has he already accepted the U.S. initiative, thus heading toward Cairo, or is he moving in the direction of a government crisis? Despite the various forecasts, it as yet is unclear

whether the forum of four will convene this week, and even if it does convene, but fails to reach an agreement, the Inner Cabinet will not be summoned, Shamir's men say tonight. Minister Moda'i, furthermore, is leaving tomorrow for the United States for three weeks. So even if Minister Qatzav joins the Inner Cabinet, Prime Minister Shamir will not be able to block the Alignment by a tie.

Shamir has not yet decided, sources in his bureau say this evening. He has a real problem with the issue of East Jerusalem, they say. How about the Alignment timetables and U.S. impatience, I asked them this evening. Shamir is not working with a stopwatch in hand, and no one can dictate timetables to him, said an official in the Prime Minister's Office.

Minister Arens will return from Poland tomorrow, and the political tension is on the rise.

Talks With Delegation Mean Direct PLO Dealings

TA2802123990 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 90 p 3

[By Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Palestinians from the territories will participate in negotiations with Israel only after they receive the PLO's approval and after being briefed by the PLO on everything that might come up on the agenda.

This was said yesterday by senior sources in the territories who made it clear Israel must know that negotiations with the Palestinian delegation are direct, not indirect, negotiations with the PLO.

The sources added that, even if it is decided within the framework of "the diplomatic games", Egypt is to announce the Palestinian delegation. Anyone who has not personally received an announcement from the PLO will not participate.

The sources stressed the delegation's level will depend on the level of the Israeli delegation, and it is possible that in the initial stages of the talks, senior officials of the organization will not participate. The level of the delegation will be promoted only in the second round of talks.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, mentioned as one of the leaders of the Palestinian delegation, conferred yesterday with John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, and Dennis Ross, assistant secretary of state for policy planning, and told them the Palestinians reject the compromise proposal by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that a resident of the territories who has an office or property in Jerusalem can represent the town in the Palestinian delegation.

"I am a refugee. I live in Ramallah and therefore cannot serve as the Jerusalem representative in the Palestinian delegation. Only a Jerusalem inhabitant can represent the city in the delegation," Radwan Abu-'Ayyash said.

Similar remarks were made by Faysal al-Husayni to YEDI'OT AHARONOT. "Only a resident of Jerusalem can serve as a representative of the town in talks. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash cannot serve as Jerusalem's representative in the talks. He can represent his hometown."

Our correspondent points out the remarks between the two men were coordinated with the PLO. It seems the PLO preferred these things be uttered by the inhabitants of the territories and East Jerusalem, not by the organization's leaders, in order to stress the decisions were taken by the inhabitants and that the steadfastness on East Jerusalem originates with Palestinians in the territories, not with the PLO command.

Faysal al-Husayni said there still is no list of members of the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel.

Shamir Rejects Bringing PLO Into Process

TA0103054790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has made it clear what position he will take in Israel's forthcoming decision on Secretary of Baker's proposals for a dialogue with the Palestinians. The prime minister was addressing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in Jerusalem last night. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Prime Minister Shamir said: We are being pressed to agree to the participation of Palestinians who live outside the territories, as well as some who are in Jerusalem. Shamir said he wanted to make his position crystal clear.

[Shamir] We shall not permit any action that would cast doubt on the status of united Jerusalem as Israel's capital, or that could undermine the position of our eternal capital. [applause] In addition, we will not be party to anything that would bring the PLO into the process through the back door.

[Essing] But later Prime Minister Shamir told reporters no decision has been taken yet on the makeup of the Palestinian delegation. Shamir also denied he was being pressured by the United States.

[Shamir] Well, we have not yet taken any decisions about the last American proposals, but what I have explained, it's my personal position.

[Essing] Does this mean you are rejecting this pressure?

[Shamir] I cannot say that. I don't know if there is a pressure, but we will have to make decisions in the next few days or weeks. [end recording]

On another subject, Prime Minister Shamir said: Any Arab country, including Egypt, that fights against aliyah from the Soviet Union, reveals itself as an enemy of Israel.

Likud Ministers To Agree on Including Deportees

TA0103103290 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Mar 90 pp 1, 13

[By Smadar Peri, Shim'on Schiffer, and Bina Barzel]

[Excerpt] Circles close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir implied yesterday that in tomorrow's discussion, the Likud ministers will express consent to including deportees in the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel. This will be contingent on the selected deportees' return to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza prior to the announcement of the Palestinian delegation's makeup.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT learned yesterday that this week, the Likud upper echelons reached a decision regarding the deportees as "former residents of the territories," rather than representatives of the PLO. This new definition will help obtain the Likud's support for including deportees.

The Likud ministers' formula dealing with composition of the Palestinian delegation to negotiations in Cairo does not mention either representatives of East Jerusalem or the deportees. Instead, it proposes a list of candidates for the delegation who will have to pass a dual test: that of the population register and that of security.

Anyone residing in East Jerusalem, as well as all those with a security record, will be excluded from the list. The remaining candidates, who currently reside in Judaea and Samaria [as published]—even if they are deportees—will compose the delegation.

Shamir wants to consolidate a united Likud stand, and therefore will avoid reaching decisions in the forum of four, which will convene tomorrow and was supposed to finalize an agreed resolution proposal on the eve of the Inner Cabinet meeting. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu 'Displeased' With U.S. Positions

TA2802212790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said his meetings with U.S. Administration officials in Washington have left him displeased [thusha qasha]. The Administration is unwilling to condemn the PLO's terror, while intending to use the issue of immigration as a whip to advance the political process.

Netanyahu told our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami he intends to suggest to Foreign Minister Arens to not agree to conduct the tripartite foreign ministers' meeting before clarification talks are conducted with the Administration concerning the following minimal conditions in the territories before elections are held there: an end to the violence, a precise definition of the participants, and making it clear Israel will not be forced to negotiate with the PLO.

Interviewed on Criticisms

TA0103070790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by New York correspondent Ya'aqov Eylon; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Netanyahu] I am deeply concerned by the leanings I discerned in Washington. We have offered free and democratic elections. Democratic processes have their own dynamics, as we can see throughout the whole world, from Nicaragua to Budapest. The basic preconditions for this process do not exist as long as terrorism runs rampant. I found a lack of readiness by the United States to come out against the PLO's terror campaign, the campaign it conducts in the territories. I did not find readiness to come out against it in either word or deed, neither through diplomatic measures nor by showing us some other form of support.

I think the fundamental conditions the United States requires for democratic elections anywhere else in the world—the election of an opposition, a multiparty system consisting of various factions and views, and the absence of terrorism—all these conditions the United States scrupulously insists be met everywhere are totally ignored when dealing with the elections we have offered. This raises serious questions for me.

[Eylon] To what conclusion does this lead you?

[Netanyahu] I believe we, together with the Americans, must reassess the process and see where it is leading, where we want it to go. I believe the fundamental condition for free elections is the assurance they be free of terrorism, that the Palestinians who want to run can (?do so). I believe we and the Americans must sit down openly, review the process, and see where it is leading. If this is nothing more than a maneuver to camouflage the handing of the keys to the PLO to enable it to set up a Palestinian state—fine, but let us hear it out loud. If the intention truly is to conduct free and democratic elections and insist on the conditions necessary to do so, we can, of course, make progress. I think we now must sit down with the Americans, as friends and allies, and find out what their intentions are and where they want to go, so we know where we are going.

[Eylon] This brings to mind Ari'el Sharon's line that terrorism first must be liquidated. Does this follow Shamir's current policy?

[Netanyahu] I think this is not a personal issue; the basic question here has to do with a process involving the vital issues of our existence. I am convinced the prime minister is aware of these questions. There are other questions we also must clarify with the Americans. I heard several U.S. Administration elements—and I hope this does not reflect the entire administration's position—mention trends that could imply aliyah can be used as a means to pressure Israel politically. This never has happened before. I heard statements such as: We also can

consider opposing the settlement of new immigrants in the suburbs of Jerusalem beyond the Green Line. These remarks again raise doubts about the basis for our understanding with the Americans.

I must say I also was impressed by a totally different specter in the Senate, where I encountered great sympathy for our demand the frightening shadow of terrorism be eliminated before elections are conducted. I think it is important for us to talk openly to the Americans. When discussing issues that will determine the future of the State of Israel, there is no room for equivocation right now.

Breakaway Likud Knesset Members Form New Party

TA2802153290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The five breakaway Likud Knesset members have announced the establishment of a new party: The Party for the Advancement of Zionist Ideology [Hamiflaga Leqidum Hara'ayon Hatziyoni].

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, the leader of the new party, said he and his colleagues would like to remain a division in the Likud, but the latter does not agree to that. He lashed out at the Likud, saying it is a nondemocratic movement governed by the principle of divide and rule. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that, among other things, Minister Moda'i said an attempt was made today to bribe some members of the new party. He refused to elaborate.

Hamas Seen Participating in Territory Elections

TA2802162890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 90 p A2

[By Yizhar Be'er]

[Text] If the political process advances and elections are held in the territories, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will take part in them. Security sources believe that, at least as far as the Gaza Strip is concerned, under certain conditions Hamas may be a more accommodating interlocutor to Israel than the national elements affiliated with the PLO.

This conclusion stems from the defense establishment's current assessment that Hamas actually is the only independent movement in the territories whose leadership and cadres are in the territories. Contrary to Fatah and other elements affiliated with the Unified National Command of the Uprising, who are split by internal struggles and unsettled disputes, Hamas is a centralized movement that subjects itself to the authority of its leaders.

"If Shaykh Ahmad Yasin says something, you know everyone will listen to him," an expert on Hamas said this week in a lecture to senior Civil Administration officers in Gaza. "On the face of it, it is a body with which there can be no negotiations because of its ideology. But having the endurance and unquestioned conviction in ultimate victory typical of religious movements, Hamas believes it can take its time until then. If elections ultimately are conducted in the territories, I believe it will be in Hamas' interest to run," the source said.

He added: "Under certain circumstances, at least in Gaza, Hamas may be a more accommodating interlocutor than the national bodies. The divisions and disputes plaguing the latter may be an obstacle when compared to the unity and dogmatism of Hamas."

The assessment of the defense establishment is that with the PLO and the secular Palestinian national movement breathing down its neck, Hamas will adopt a pragmatic attitude toward Israel. Hamas has acquired a lot of power, which is not properly reflected in the media, and even the PLO is unaware of it. Hamas will not give up this power and will seek to translate it into political gains.

Despite the impressive strength acquired by Hamas and its independent character (particularly in Gaza; in the West Bank Hamas developed an orientation toward Jordanian religious bodies), the assessment is when the moment of truth comes, the national patriotic trend represented by the PLO will gain the upper hand.

"The inhabitants of the territories primarily aspire to some sort of liberation from Israeli rule," a defense source says. "If the PLO is seen to be leading toward implementation of such a development while Hamas is seen to be hindering it, when the day comes and the two confront each other, Hamas will be weaker. I believe Hamas ultimately will be taken in by the aspiration of most of the inhabitants of the territories (to negotiate with Israel) and then will find the religious justifications for it." According to this assessment, the vast support Hamas enjoys at the moment has to do with the present state of the intifadah and the despair felt by the inhabitants at the lack of progress in the political process.

Poland To Serve As Transit Point for Immigrants

TA2802130090 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Feb 90 p A2

[By Sha'ul Ben-Hayim from Warsaw]

[Text] Poland is prepared to serve as a transit point for Soviet immigrants. Poland consequently will comply with Foreign Minister Arens' request to take in Soviet immigrants in transit to Israel.

Confirming this, a high-level official Polish source added: "We also will be willing to allow establishment of a transit camp and to let the Jewish Agency bring in staff to process the immigrants."

Shamir Said Against Pollard Citizenship 'Today'

TA2802143990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister believes today there is no room for granting Jonathan Pollard Israeli citizenship, Deputy Interior Minister Refa'el Pinhasi told the Knesset Interior Committee today in a discussion of the issue.

Pinhasi said Israeli citizenship is of symbolic value only and cannot help Mr. Pollard. When Interior Minister Arye Der'i is certain granting citizenship could benefit Jonathan Pollard, we will consider this issue positively, Pinhasi concluded. This was reported by our Knesset correspondent, Dov Gilhar.

Treasury Announces Devaluation, Other Measures

TA2802182890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Devaluation and new economic measures: This evening the Israeli shekel was devalued by six percent against the currency basket and now stands at 2.188 shekels per basket unit, while the value-added tax was raised by one percent to 16 percent.

Announcing these measures in a surprise news conference, Finance Minister Shim'on Peres pointed out the additional revenues would be used for absorbing new immigrants.

In contrast, the Treasury canceled the seven and one-half percent levy on the purchase of foreign currency from the banks. Minister Peres promised the prices of products controlled by the government would not increase by more than 10 percent this year. The Bank of Israel will set the new rate of exchange of the U.S. dollar tomorrow. Meanwhile, the price of cigarettes will go up: locally-made by 21 percent, and imported cigarettes by 17 percent.

New IDF Commander in Gaza To Start 1 Mar

TA2802180590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Brigadier General Shmu'el Zucker has been appointed commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in the Gaza Strip, and will assume duty tomorrow. He will replace Brigadier General Tzvi Poleg, who has been appointed to another senior post in the IDF.

Brig. Gen. Zucker was born in 1950 in Ashqelon. He received a bachelor's degree in political sciences from Haifa University. He was drafted into the IDF in 1968 and joined the Shaqed reconnaissance platoon, where he later assumed command positions. With this unit he took part in the war of attrition at the Suez Canal, during which he was wounded.

Update on Incidents in Territories 27 Feb

TA2802175590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 90 p A2

[By Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] There were numerous demonstrations by students yesterday throughout the West Bank and quite a few clashes with soldiers to protest the closure of schools.

Palestinian sources reported four students were wounded in clashes with the Army in Halhul. According to these sources, two locals were wounded in clashes in Hebron. A homemade bomb exploded in the casbah of Nabulus as a military patrol was driving by, but no one was hurt. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources argue that soldiers entered the village of Talluza in a bid to arrest wanted men. When they failed to do that, they rounded up the men in the village and imposed a fine of 350 Israeli shekels on all owners of houses covered with nationalist graffiti.

The dean of the Islamic college for girls in Bayt Hanina was attacked and beaten by three masked men, apparently because of internal rivalries in the college.

A firebomb was thrown at an Israeli car parked near the marketplace in Ramallah. It shattered and ignited on the road, but no one was hurt.

Arab lawyers appearing in military courts declared a one-day strike to protest the behavior of border policemen posted at the entrance to the courts. Jawad Bulus, an East Jerusalem lawyer, was beaten up by a border policemen at the entrance to the military court in Hebron. [passage omitted]

According to Palestinian sources, 10 people were wounded yesterday in the Gaza Strip. Three of them were wounded in the Rafah refugee camp, despite the curfew.

The sources also reported on casualties in Bani-Suhaylah, Gaza, Jabalyah, and Bayt Hanun. They also reported on a 10-year-old boy from Gaza's Daraj neighborhood who was hit in the head by an iron ball. [passage omitted]

An Israeli Army spokesman in the Southern Command reported on local disturbances in the Gaza Strip, the curfew imposed on Rafah, and on a partial commercial strike in Gaza. He did not mention any casualties. [passage omitted]

The military court in Gaza sentenced two defendants who took part in riots in Jabalyah and assembled and threw 13 firebombs at Army patrols to seven to 14 years in prison. The two already are serving prison sentences of 30 years and life, respectively, after the Beersheba District Court convicted them of murdering an inmate in the Qezi'ot lockup facility. [passage omitted]

UK Tourist Stabbed in Hebron; Houses Demolished

TA2802165790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] A British tourist was stabbed this afternoon in Hebron. He was taken to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem suffering moderate wounds.

The security forces this afternoon demolished a wing of the Mabhut family residence in the Jabalyah refugee camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the wing belonged to a youth suspected of taking part in the murders of soldiers Avi Sasportas and Ilan Sa'adon. The security forces believe he committed the murders as part of his activities within a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad, and later fled from the Gaza Strip.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 28 February reports: "This morning the security forces demolished the houses of four Jericho residents suspected of belonging to the local shock committees. Three of the men are suspected of brutally murdering another local resident they suspected of collaboration with the Israeli authorities. The fourth threw several firebombs at Israeli cars, severely wounding one passenger."]

HA'OLAM HAZE Updates Palestinian Deaths

TA2802120990 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 28 Feb 90 p 6

[By Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 26 February, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 562 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 717.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 871 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories, according to the following breakdown:
—635 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
—58 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.
—84 fatalities from asphyxiation.
—94 fatalities from other causes.

Opening Universities Seen To Increase Violence

TA2802135290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Opening the universities in the territories will be followed by an increase in the level of violence. This assessment was made today by Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of the government operations in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. He said Israel has no policy of deliberately causing illiteracy among the Palestinians. The proof for that can be found in the fact the defense establishment is ignoring reports of students in the territories studying independently, outside the campuses.

Colonel Shalom Harari, Arab affairs adviser to the coordinator, said in a discussion conducted today in the Knesset education committee meeting that such independent studies are being conducted in Ramallah, Bethlehem, and East Jerusalem. According to him, the defense establishment believes if the campuses in the territories open, the universities might become the spearhead of the intifadah.

The Knesset education committee has recommended that all the universities in the territories be opened gradually, and that one university be opened for a trial period as an initial step.

60 Percent Favor Settling Immigrants in Territories

TA2802121390 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] According to a public opinion poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research institute, 60 percent of Israelis are in favor of settling new immigrants in the territories, despite recent reports about a possible cut in U.S. economic aid if Israel settles them there.

The poll was conducted in mid-February on 1,120 people, who constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel, excluding kibbutzim, moshavim, and settlers in the territories.

Industrial Cooperation With Syria Discussed

JN2802192590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The Syrian-Jordanian joint subcommittee for industrial coordination began meetings at the Ministry of Industry and Trade today, led by Dr. Ziyad Fariz, minister of industry and trade, and Syrian Industry Minister Anton Jubran. Our correspondent Jawad al-'Umari has more details:

[Begin recording] [Al-'Umari] The subcommittee's meetings are being conducted to finalize procedures in bilateral industrial coordination for exchanging information about the existing industries in both countries in preparation for laying the foundations of bilateral integration and cooperation. In a speech at the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Ziyad Fariz stressed the need to specify steps by which to implement all that has been agreed to by the two countries' prime ministers during the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee's meetings. He said we seek to enhance previous accomplishments and to find new channels for achieving the aspired bilateral cooperation and integration, whose foundations have been laid by His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. For more details on these meetings, Syrian Industry Minister Anton Jubran spoke to our news program. He said:

[Jubran] The first point to be reviewed and discussed was cooperation in the field of bilateral industrial coordination. It has been agreed to exchange information on the industries existing in both countries, on production capabilities, and the needs of both markets for commodities. This is an attempt to provide an information base for both sides on these industries—a base from which we can proceed toward discussing the prospects for industrial coordination and cooperation in exchanging industrial products or production requirements, and the unification of sources of production requirements. Within this framework, the industries that currently do not exist in the two countries, but are needed, will be reviewed, especially industries depending completely or partly on local raw materials available in either country. This is for conducting the necessary studies and to direct investment toward establishing such industries, whether it is accomplished by the private sector or by a mixed sector involving the public and private sectors.

[Al-'Umari] The subcommittee was set up in implementation of the resolutions of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, which met 29 and 30 January 1990 in Amman. [end recording]

Japan Grants $73 Million Loan for Education

JN2802172390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 28 Feb (PETRA)—The Jordanian and Japanese Governments today signed memorandums of exchange under which the Japanese Government will grant an easy-term loan amounting to 10.381 billion Japanese yen, or $73 million, to help finance educational development projects. The Japanese contribution concentrates on financing construction and buying equipment and furniture for about 100 schools.

This loan forms part of the joint financing with the World Bank, which will contribute a sum equal to the Japanese contribution during the first stage of the educational sector plan, which will last four years. In addition, the treasury will contribute about $105 million, $33 million of which is for the cost of land that has been bought.

The memorandums were signed by Planning Minister Engineer 'Awni al-Masri and the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

Progressives Elect Secretary, Political Bureau

JN2802145990 Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 26 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] Mr. Fawwaz al-Zu'bi was elected secretary general of the Jordanian Progressive Party [al-hizb al-taqaddumi al-urduni] during an expanded party meeting last week in which various ideological, political, and organizational issues were discussed. At the end of the meeting, the party elected the members of its political bureau.

In addition to Al-Zu'bi, the political bureau includes Ahmad al-Rashdan, Ahmad Abu-Zayd, and Jamal 'Ayyad, along with five other members whose names were not revealed, pending the expected approval by the Jordanian authorities of free public activity for existing parties and organizations.

Information Minister Clarifies AL-QUDS Status

JN0103082790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din has said that, according to the press and publications law, the [Amman] newspaper AL-QUDS is not licensed for publication in Jordan and is considered a foreign publication, like any other Arab and foreign publication.

Answering a question put through Parliament by Deputy Faris al-Nabulsi about AL-QUDS, 'Izz-al-Din added the control desk at the Press and Publications Department scrutinizes the newspaper as a foreign paper before it is distributed, and that the laws and regulations applied regarding this are observed.

'Izz-al-Din noted the director of the Press and Publications Department has informed him the decision to print the paper in Jordan followed oral instructions from the prime minister to the information minister in 1987.

Fadlallah Voices Optimism on Hostage Release

NC0103103790 Paris AFP in English 1015 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Beirut, March 1 (AFP)—The spiritual guide of pro-Iranian Shiite fundamentalists in Lebanon has voiced optimism over the prospects for the release of Western hostages. Shaykh Muhammad Hussayn Fadlallah, in an interview late Wednesday with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, spoke of "tangible elements" in favour of freeing the 17 foreigners, many of whom are believed to be held by pro-Iranian extremists. "I think that the atmosphere is positive, but I do not have detailed information," Shaykh Fadlallah said, adding that he had recently made several contacts in a bid "to close the hostages' file". "I can say that there is a general conviction, a favourable atmosphere, not abstract but based on tangible elements," he said at his home in the Shiite southern suburbs of Beirut, a stronghold of the pro-Iranian group Hizballah.

Shaykh Fadlallah also called last Friday for the release of Western hostages on humanitarian grounds and for an end to hostage-taking, a day after a similar appeal in the influential Tehran Times newspaper.

The senior Shiite cleric's latest call came as a U.S. official in Washington said the chances for the imminent release of the hostages, including nine Americans and three Britons, were "very slim." John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and Asian affairs, said he had "a tremendous interest" in the Tehran Times call but added that "it is not words that count but actions."

Shaykh Fadlallah said that he had always been in favour of resolving the hostages problem, "despite efforts by the press to implicate my name in this affair." "Even if I have stressed the political context, I have always considered that it had a negative aspect at the humanitarian level," he said.

The shaykh also disputed reports which he said misrepresented the prominent hardliner and former Iranian interior minister, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, as being in favour of taking hostages as a means to exert political pressure. There is "no Mohtashemi phenomenon in Lebanon," Shaykh Fadlallah stressed, although pro-Iranian sources here have said the Hizballah leadership was close to Mr. Mohtashemi, who recently visited Lebanon.

Lebanese Forces Deny Withdrawal Plans

NC2802142390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has stated the following:

Today AL-ANWAR carried banner headlines about deadlines General 'Awn has given the Lebanese Forces and about a Lebanese Forces' proposal conveyed by Lawyer George 'Adwan and Engineer Roger Dib to B'abda from Dr. Ja'ja', which stipulates the military evacuation of Beirut, the dissolution of the security organ, and the Army's return to Kasrawan and Jubayl. In view of these reports, which were attributed to unnamed political sources, the Lebanese Forces wish to clarify the following for the public and those concerned:

1. The above reports published by AL-ANWAR are completely untrue and are not based on any facts.

2. The Lebanese Forces regret Gen. 'Awn is persisting in the policy of media leaks and of schemes intending to score media victories when the Lebanese Forces are seriously working together with those offering their good will efforts to find a real and pragmatic solution for the current crisis in the eastern areas.

3. It is true Dr. Ja'ja' sent George 'Adwan and Roger Dib to B'abda within the framework of his persistent effort to protect society and save any people, possessions, and morale possible. But the proposals they carried were realistic and possible, and not as fanciful as those reported by AL-ANWAR.

4. The Lebanese Forces recall a number of principles previously conveyed to those concerned, who considered them during their efforts. These principles are:
A. It is out of the question for the Lebanese Forces to withdraw from Beirut.
B. It is also out of the question to dissolve any of the Lebanese Forces' organs.
C. Recognition of the resistance and all its military, political, media, and security organs is one of the basic conditions for any agreement.
D. There must be complete political coordination to move from the framework of autocratic decisionmaking and policies to the framework of comprehensive understanding that leads to unification of views and stands.
E. The Lebanese Forces have not received any preconditions or deadlines from Gen. 'Awn. On the other hand, should such logic exist, they are not willing to deal with it.

While clarifying these matters, the Lebanese Forces hope all media organs will check their reports before publishing them so they can maintain their credibility. It recalls the above principles are red lines that no one can violate or bypass.

Church Leaders Call for Cease-Fire, Dialogue

NC2802180690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Christian leaders met in Bkirki today with Patriarch Sfayr and called for a cease-fire in the eastern area, withdrawing fighters and weapons, reopening roads and crossing points, and stopping the media campaigns. They also called for bringing life back to normal and for conducting a dialogue among eastern area officials until a solution to the Lebanese issue is reached.

Ja'ja' Accepts Call

NC2802182890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Commenting on the statement issued by their eminences and beatitudes the patriarchs and church leaders, the Lebanese Forces commander has made the following statement:

In the name of the Lebanese Forces, I declare my full commitment to the statement issued by their eminences and beatitudes the patriarchs and church leaders. I also declare the Lebanese Forces' readiness to immediately abide by this statement's call for a cease- fire, withdrawing fighters and weapons to their barracks, reopening roads and crossing points, stopping the media campaigns, bringing life back to normal, and immediately initialling a calm dialogue to resolve all the pending political problems.

The statement fully expresses the Lebanese Forces' stand before, during, and after this war. We have used arms only in self-defense. This is our right, because we cannot accept eliminating the Lebanese Forces when thousands of foreign soldiers and numerous Lebanese armed groups are roaming free on Lebanese soil.

Your Eminences and Beatitudes, to us your statement is an actual commitment and a decision we hope the other party will implement, and we hope you will directly supervise this. We declare our willingness to place all our resources at your disposal to implement this decision.

Lahhud Calls on Eastern Armies To Join Forces

NC2802145890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud has appealed to the military personnel in al-Yarzah, al-Fayyadiyah, Beirut, Sarba, 'Amshit, and Juniyah. He asked them to be fully aware the army is moving toward inevitable unity, and that there is no life for any military individual or group outside this unity.

In his appeal, which [the Army] magazine AL-JAYSH will publish the day after tomorrow, Saturday [as heard], Gen. Lahhud said: So far I have not asked you to join your barracks here for family or humanitarian reasons, but since your houses were destroyed and your families were dispersed, I find it necessary to ask you to join us. You and your families will be guaranteed everything necessary for a dignified life. This would not be considered a gift because this is your right. I will try to provide you with a dignified life, just like your comrades who joined the path of legitimacy and army unity before you.

Lubrani on East Beirut Fighting, South's Security

NC2802115790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activity in Lebanon, has announced the war in the eastern area will not end through foreign intervention, but through agreement among the Christians.

He warned the fighting in the eastern area only will lead to loss. What is sad and contradictory, he said, is the intervention of the Palestinian element in the discussion to find a solution to the Lebanese Christians' problems.

Speaking during a visit to the border strip in the south, Lubrani said extending the security strip depends on security needs, and the approval of any such idea will have to be made by the Israeli Government.

Lubrani admitted the Israeli Navy is blockading al-Zahrani port in the south. He said the Israeli Navy is carrying out its duties and has its security objectives. It will continue its actions as long as Israel's security is in danger, he said.

Liberals Blame E. Beirut Leaders for Infighting

NC2802191490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Members of the National Liberal Party's Higher Council who live in Beirut met today in the home of late President Camille Sham'un. The eldest member, lawyer Musa Prins, chaired the meeting.

The conferees issued a statement saying the recent battles were a disservice to the Lebanese cause. These battles, the statement said, pitted the erstwhile allies against one another in a bitter confrontation paid for by the Lebanese people. The statement said it would have been better if the guns were pointed at Lebanon's enemies, who still conspire against the country's existence and sovereignty.

The conferees deplored the loss in life and property and offered their condolences to the martyrs' families. They recalled those who wish to go into public service or politics should make sure they have as much courage and boldness as they have good reason, awareness, and understanding. The statement warned against continuing the abominable infighting, blamed the leaders, and called on the latter to end military action and start a frank and sincere dialogue that could lead to a solid agreement and a clarification of positions.

The statement supported the mediation committee, which has made every possible effort to extract the area from its tribulations. The conferees said they remain ready to cooperate with all friends to bring about peace and tranquillity.

The conferees called for the damage to be contained. They urged eastern area battle lines be abolished and the Beirut area be neutralized and spared destruction.

Fierce Fighting Continues in Eastern Areas 1 Mar

NC0103104390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Fierce fighting between the al-Karantinah and al-Yarzah troops is continuing under the cover of heavy artillery fire, which is extending to most residential neighborhoods in the eastern areas. The 'Awn troops are trying to advance on the Salome combat line, employing all types of weapons. The heavy shelling of the residential neighborhoods has left a number of casualties and started several fires. Fierce clashes are also taking place on the al-Qulay'at combat lines in the Kasrawan area.

REUTER reported that units loyal to 'Awn launched an attack against the Lebanese Forces' main headquarters in al-Karantinah on two axes—the Mirna-al-Shaluhi and Salome. The agency said that the initial count in today's fighting cites nine people dead.

Lebanese Forces information media reported a short while ago that 'Awn troops are attacking the Salome axis after repeated abortive attacks since 0545 today, and that the Lebanese Forces troops are repulsing these attacks. The Lebanese Forces media said that artillery shells are still falling in al-Ashrafiyah and some other areas at the rate of five per minute. They accused 'Awn troops of using phosphorous shells against residential neighborhoods, setting fire to many houses and institutions.

The al-Yarzah information media said that the Army has repulsed an infiltration attempt made by the Lebanese Forces in Sinn al-Fil-Salome area under the cover of heavy shellfire, which also extended to the presidential palace in B'abda. The media noted that the shelling is continuing from the Lebanese Forces positions in al-Ashrafiyah, Sinn al-Fil, and Kasrawan against the residential neibhborshoods and the positions of al-Yarzah troops in Hursh Thabit, Salome, the upper al-Matn coast, al-'Adliyah, the Ministry of Communications, Ra's al-Khatt, and the museum area. The shelling of the museum area led to the suspension of movement at the crossing point. The 'Awn sources added that the Nahr al-Kalb-al-Dubayyah crossing was closed by the al-Yarzah troops because of sniper fire.

'Awn radio reported a short while ago that the Lebanese Forces troops are trying to advance toward the Army positions on the contact lines and are shelling residential neighborhoods and the positions of the 'Awn troops in the northern al-Matn coast at the rate of one shell per minute.

Al-Ashrafiyah, Radio Under Fire

NC0103062590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Mar 00

[Text] Residential areas in al-Ashrafiyah have been coming under intensive artillery and machine gun fire since 0545 this morning. This morning's attack covers the Hotel Dieu, Hayy al-Siryan, Salome, Sinn al-Fil, and al-Dawrah areas. The Lebanese Forces positions are being fired upon by light- and medium-caliber weapons.

'Awn group emplacements intermittently attacked various combat lines during the night, opening shellfire in all directions. This is a blatant violation of the cease-fire agreement. Several shells fell on the Voice of Lebanon Radio Station during a concentrated shelling and successive aggressions. The intense shelling is continuing. The Voice of Lebanon Radio is being shelled right now.

LF Repulse 'Awn Army Attack

NC0103071990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The shelling and attacks against the citizens and residential neighborhoods in al-Ashrafiyah have not ceased. It seems as if this flare up on the various combat lines in the eastern areas is the frank response to the appeal made by the leaders of the Christian churches who met in Bkirki yesterday.

The shelling is continuing on the various lines. Shells have been falling for the past 10 minutes in the al-Nab'ah area. Residential neighborhoods in al-Ashrafiyah have been coming under heavy fire from various types of artillery and machine guns since 0545 today. This morning attacks cover the areas of Hotel Dieu, Hayy al-Siryan, Salome, Sinn al-Fil, al-Dawrah, and al-Karantinah. [passage omitted]

Our correspondents report that property has been severely damaged. Several fires broke out in various places and in cars parked on the streets. The people have remained in shelters.

A Voice of Lebanon correspondent reported a short while ago that forces loyal to 'Awn attacked the Mirna-al-Shaluhi-Salome combat line this morning. The clashes intensified in this area, and shells fell in various areas. The Lebanese Forces [LF] repulsed the attack, inflicting undetermined losses on the attackers.

Army elements this morning closed the al-Dubayyah road and prevented cars from proceeding toward Kasrawan and turned back people traveling toward al-Matn and Beirut.

'Awn Forces Reportedly Seize Phalange Party Center

NC0103122190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] We learned a short while ago that 'Awn's group has made some progress in its attack in Sinn al-Fil area. The group has seized the Phalangist Party center on al-Ghazal Street, which is considered a strategic position overlooking al-Nahar highway and al- Karantinah. 'Awn's group also took control of the Mirna center in al-Shaluhi and the Salome traffic circle. The 'Awn force's advance stopped after the commander was wounded.

According to some reports, the Lebanese Forces has regrouped its troops and is now launching a counterattack on the al-Ghazal Street front to regain control of the Phalangist Party center and the Salome traffic circle.

LF 'Military Source' Refutes Claim

NC0103125690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] A military source in the Lebanese Forces has categorically denied the report broadcast by a local radio station to the effect that 'Awn's group has managed to occupy the Phalangist Party center in Sinn al-Fil. The source emphasized that all the attempts carried out by 'Awn's group have been repulsed and that there have been no advances whatsoever.

Cease-Fire Agreement Reached 1 Mar

NC0103121890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff Command—read by announcer]

[Text] As a result of the mediation committee's contacts held in the aftermath of the violent attacks that military groups launched against the positions of the Lebanese Forces since early this morning, an agreement was reached to cease fire at 1330 today and to stop all media campaigns.

Al-Hirawi Said Advised Against Entering East

NC2602154490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Citing informed sources in West Beirut, the newspaper Al-SAFIR reported today [that] al-Hirawi had decided to launch a military operation in the eastern area to assert his government's sovereignty there. According to the report, he had set the Thursday or Friday before last as the date for launching the operation. The sources told AL-SAFIR that Speaker al-Husayni had conveyed Al-Hirawi's plans for a military entry into the eastern area to Damascus. Al-Husayni's visit may have paved the way for Al-Hirawi's secret visit to Damascus the week before last.

While in Syria, al-Hirawi reviewed the military operation to be carried out by a Lebanese Army brigade numbering 1,500 to 2,000 soldiers. The soldiers have been deployed in battalions along the combat lines opposite B'abda Palace from Suq al-Gharb up to Kafr Shima under the command of General Emile Lahhud. The sources said before the zero hour was set, al-Hirawi briefed the leaders of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee countries on his plan to enter the eastern area. The tripartite committee advised a confrontation should be avoided, as it could reflect negatively on the legitimate government.

Meanwhile, Chamber of Deputies sources noted that once the idea of entering the eastern area was abandoned, al-Hirawi threatened to resign if the fighting in the eastern area did not stop. Deputy Butrus Harb was reported to have said at private meetings that Al-Hirawi might resign if the fighting in the eastern area continues and the legitimate government is unable to play a role in ending it.

Sources Say Israel Issued Warning on Mediation

NC2802162490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Citing well-informed Western diplomatic sources in Beirut, QNA has reported Israel is threatening to intervene in East Beirut to foil the Palestinian initiative to achieve a cease-fire between the forces of Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja'.

According to the sources, an Israeli envoy paid a secret visit to East Beirut on 26 February and warned the Palestinian mediation and the current Palestinian presence in East Beirut should end as soon as possible.

QNA cites the same sources as saying the PLO leadership has asked the United States to pressure the Zionist entity to end its policy of blackmail aimed at thwarting the Palestinian mediation in East Beirut.

Israel Reportedly Brings Armored Reinforcements

NC0103075390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Citing security sources, our radio correspondent in the south has reported that the Israeli occupation authorities have brought armored forces into the occupied security strip and deployed them on (al-Sharifi) hill, near al-Khiyam; and Naqqar Kawkaba, near Hasbayya. The forces were estimated at 20 armored vehicles, including six Merkava tanks, six Centurion tanks, and M-113 armored personnel carriers.

Our correspondent added that unusual Israeli movement has been noticed in the Marj 'Uyun and Ibil al-Saqy areas. The occupation forces deployed patrols and established mobile and permanent roadblocks at the al-Khiyam-Marj 'Uyun and al-Qulay'ah-Marj 'Uyun crossroads and carefully searched vehicles and people.

Further on Junblatt Interview in Paris

NC2402104790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], met in Paris yesterday with Francois Scheer, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry; (Pierre Gidoni), the French Socialist Party official in charge of international relations; and (Alain Schnell), the French Socialist Party official in charge of the Middle East. PSP Political Bureau members Durayd

Yaghi and Akram Shuhayyib also attended the meeting, during which developments in Lebanon and the Middle East were discussed.

Junblatt earlier had visited Moscow and Bonn, where he met with a number of officials.

Junblatt emphasized that should the war in the eastern area continue, it eventually would destroy the region and force Christians to immigrate. He stressed 'Awn merely is a small cog in a great conspiracy who has yet to grasp what is going on. This came in an interview with Paris Radio Monte Carlo. Here is a recording of the interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] With your permission, Mr. Junblatt, we will begin with your tour of some European capitals. First, your visit to the Soviet Union: Do the Soviet officials have a clear idea of what can be done to resolve the Lebanese problem?

[Junblatt] The Soviet leaders have expressed their support for Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. We cannot expect much from the Soviets at present, however, particularly considering the great changes taking place in the Soviet Union, changes that may affect that country's unity. These changes can be positive or negative. We in Lebanon are not the center of the world. The Soviet Union is a great empire. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Many observers note the state of calm prevailing along the traditional combat lines, particularly in Suq al-Gharb. Can you tell us why this specific front is calm, even though General 'Awn withdrew a large part of his troops? The time is ripe if you wish to change the map there.

[Junblatt] First of all, I believe we can do without new military operations. Second, this decision cannot be made unilaterally; it must be in collaboration with other Lebanese powers and after consultations with Syria. Third, if we could carry out an operation for specific objectives to remove Michel 'Awn from B'abda, we would spare Lebanon a lot of suffering. This a difficult technical, political, and military matter.

[Reporter] Do you believe Damascus does not wish to intervene militarily? Is it preventing military intervention in the eastern area at present?

[Junblatt] Certain Arab officials made statements that implied threats to Syria at a certain stage, when Syria wanted to eliminate Michel 'Awn. These threats may make Damascus hesitate. Besides, for whose interest will Damascus interfere? There may be other considerations that preclude such intervention. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] You always have referred to a probable Palestinian expansion in Lebanon. In view of the recent Palestinian initiative, how can this expansion take place?

[Junblatt] The expansion already has taken place east of Sidon and in Iqlim al-Tuffah, under the slogan of disengaging Amal and Hizballah troops. This can happen in Iqlim al-Kharrub and in Beirut. I do not know. There are Palestinians who really want to liberate Palestine. There are certain elements, however, who are exploiting the changes for their own interests. They do not care if they have to substitute one homeland for another. Some dream of returning to Lebanon to use it as a base for military operations against Israel. We do not object to this if it is part of a clearly studied Arab plan for the area extending from al-Naqurah to al-'Aqabah. I will object, however, if Lebanon alone is to shoulder that burden. I say that to all. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] If the situation in East Beirut is settled in favor of one of the warring parties, or if a third party emerges, will you negotiate?

[Junblatt] We are prepared to conduct a dialogue with a third party or with whoever wants a new democratic Lebanon that seeks a multisectarian or nonsectarian future. I believe the Christian sect, specifically the Maronites, have great capabilities. It is regrettable, however, that the sound of the gun is louder than the voice of reason at present. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Minister Leaves To Print New Passports in London

NC2702162490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin left for London today to supervise the printing of the new Lebanese passports as the company charged with designing the new passport has completed its work.

It is expected that the new passports will be available in mid-March, at which time all passports currently in use will be replaced.

AL-BA'TH Calls For 'Better, Richer' Future

JN0103101990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 1 Mar (SANA)—AL-BA'TH states when President al-Asad stresses we do not want nominal institutions, he only reminds us that Syria is a state of effective institutions that assume their responsibilities in full, rather than nominal ones just for show.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that according to this conception, it is neither right nor permissible for some of our institutions to show little or much weakness in assuming full and complete responsibility; nor is it right or permissible for some manifestations of carelessness and lack of responsibility to emerge here and there—manifestations that make some of our institutions appear as forms without content.

The paper refers to President al-Asad's reminder in his speech of his early calls on the People's Assembly and all other institutions to exercise their full authority and perform their duty, not only in the field of control and taking to account, but also in the field of construction, positive action, and democratic practice.

On the basis of this, says AL-BA'TH, it is never acceptable for anyone to shift his own responsibility to others, or for an official to refrain to take the initiative unless given the green light to exercise his authority and perform his duty. There is no reason to be ashamed if some marginal shortcomings appear along our wide march; what is shameful, however, is that we fail to overcome these shortcomings. Overcoming these shortcomings is what we are going to do without fear or hesitation.

The paper concludes by saying that if the past, with all its events, was good, then the future must be better, richer, and broader. This is what leader Al-Asad has called for. Those who fail to shoulder their responsibilities, perform their duties, or exercise their rights will have no excuse. The train of the revolution is moving forward; it will not stop. Syria has always been searching for a better way, benefiting from peoples' experience, yet acting on the basis of its will, the history of its nation, and the national and pan-Arab needs of its people.

Al-Asad Receives Tunisian Foreign Minister

JN2802150590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon received the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus, Abdelhamid 'Ammar, who conveyed a written message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali dealing with the results of the Arab Maghreb Union summit.

Correction to Al-Asad on People's Assembly

WA0103121790

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Al-Asad on People's Assembly, Ties With USSR," published in the 28 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 46:

Column two, paragraph four, last sentence, make read: ...the NPF's congress, the youth conference, and the People's Assembly.... (changing word "progess" to "conference")

Afghanistan

USSR's Belousov Heads Delegation to Kabul

Received by Najibullah

LD2702221390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The Press Office of the Presidency reports that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, this afternoon received His Excellency Igor Sergeyevich Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet side of the Afghan-Soviet permanent commission for economic and technical cooperation, with his accompanying delegation, at Gol Khanah Palace of the Presidency.

In the course of the meeting esteemed Najibullah familiarized the Soviet economic delegation with the political, economic, and military situation in the country. Expressing gratitude for the all-out and timely aid from the Soviet Union, he spoke about the possibility of further expansion and consolidation of economic cooperation between the two countries.

Furnishing information about existing cooperation, Belousov stressed the readiness of his country to continue economic and technical assistance to the government and people of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Dr. 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, vice president, and the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, B.N. Pastukhov, were also present during the meeting.

Meets With Keshtmand

LD2702223290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers' Executive Committee of the Republic of Afghanistan, met this morning with His Excellency Igor Sergeyevich Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet side of the Afghan-Soviet permanent commission of economic and technical cooperation, and the high-ranking Soviet government delegation at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers. During the meeting, deputy prime ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, officials of related ministries, the guest delegation, the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, B.N. Pastukhov, and Soviet embassy officials were also present.

After explaining the military, political, and economic situation in Afghanistan and expressing satisfaction with the economic and technical aid from the Soviet Union, Keshtmand drew the attention of the Soviet delegation to the consumer goods needed by the Republic of Afghanistan for 1990, the expansion of trade between Soviet establishments and the private sector of Afghanistan, the settlement of affairs related to the economic projects constructed with the help of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, and the expansion of direct cooperation between the provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan and republics and provinces of the Soviet Union, as well as the settlement of a number of issues of mutual interest through the Afghan-Soviet permanent commission for economic and technical cooperation.

In response, Belousov, after presenting a message from the esteemed N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, spoke about the political and economic situation in the Soviet Union under perestroyka, and reassured on behalf of the government of the Soviet Union that issues tendered by the Republic of Afghanistan receive full consideration by the related Soviet institutions. The meeting ended in an atmosphere of full understanding and friendship.

The BIA reports that His Excellency Igor Sergeyevich Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and the accompanying high-ranking government delegation arrived this morning in Kabul for a working visit. The delegation was received by Sarwar Mangal, deputy prime minister; Sultan Husayn, minister of planning; 'Abdul Baqi Samandari, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and the USSR ambassador in Kabul.

Received by Defense Minister

LD2802112890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 27, BAKHTAR—General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defence of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) met in his office with Igor Sergeyevich Belousov, deputy chairman USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet-Afghan permanent commission on economic and technical cooperation and members of the guest delegation today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that during the meeting while Pastukhov, Soviet ambassador in the RA was present, the Afghan defence minister spoke in relation to the politico-military situation in the country and gains achieved by the contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces of the country during the pullout of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan one year ago. Tanay expressed gratitude for the disinterested assistance of the Soviet Union to the people of Afghanistan as well.

According to another report, Igor Sergeyevich Belousov and members of his delegation accompanied by General Tanay, and General Zabiullah Ziarmal, general chairman of the political affairs of the Armed Forces of the RA and some members of the leadership organ of the Afghan Defence Ministry, visited the central armaments museum and laid flower at the foot of the monument of the martyrs of the April Revolution. The guest delegation visited various branches of the museum.

Later, the Afghan defence minister handed over gifts of his ministry to the head of the delegation.

The Soviet delegation who is currently on a working visit in the Afghan capital, recorded his memoire to the special book put in the museum.

Cooperation Documents Signed

LD2802192290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, this afternoon took part in a ceremony to sign agreements and exchange documents between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union on economic and technical cooperation of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan in 1990, held in the headquarters of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Signing the agreements and documents for the Afghan side were Sarwar Mangal, deputy prime minister and chairman of the joint commission on Afghan-Soviet economic and technical cooperation; and Sultan Husayn, minister of planning; Burhan Ghiasi, minister of commerce. Signing for the Soviet side were Igor Sergeyevich Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Afghan-Soviet joint commission on economic and technical cooperation; and Vladimir Fedorovich Mordvinov, deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. A number of ministers, members of the guest delegation, USSR Ambassador to Afghanistan B.N. Pastukhov, and a number of employees of this embassy were present at the ceremony.

The signed documents, consisting of agreements and documents between the USSR delegation and the Afghan side, specify the direction and phases of the Soviet economic and technical cooperation on (?gratis assistance), exchange of goods between the Republic of Afghanistan and Soviet Union, delivery of food and petroleum products, exchange of goods between Soviet enterprises and Afghan traders and private companies, delivery of commodities needed by the Republic of Afghanistan in 1990, as well as acceptance of planning cadres of the Republic of Afghanistan in the training courses of the USSR State Committee for Planning between 1990-1994.

BAKHTAR reports that after the signing ceremony, medals of the Republic of Afghanistan, as symbols of friendship and goodwill of the Republic of Afghanistan, were presented by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand to Igor Sergeyevich Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, members of the guest delegation, and some members of Soviet Embassy in Kabul. These were accepted with thanks and gratitude.

Transportation Talks Held With USSR Official

LD2802115290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 27, BAKHTAR—Mahmud Barialay, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan met with H.I. Ginnovich [name as received], deputy chairman of the permanent commission of the Afghan-Soviet technical-economic cooperation in his office here on Feb 26. 1990.

During the meeting, while Khalilullah, minister of Transport of Construction and Mir 'Azmuddin, minister of communications and deputy ministers of construction were present. The sides exchanged views on a number of issues concerning to the needs of the said ministries.

Likewise, the first deputy prime minister of the country threw light on issues related to the delivery of spare parts and lubrication for meeting the requirements of the transport units, acceleration of the process of transfer of the Afghan transit goods via the Soviet Union to the private sector and drew attention of the USSR in this respect as well.

The Soviet side expressed every kind of cooperation in this connection.

Bangladesh

PRC's Qin Jiwei Meets Vice President, Premier

BK0103034290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Vice President Moudud Ahmed has said the already existing ties of friendship between Bangladesh and China will be further strengthened through increased economic cooperation. He said this when the visiting Chinese defense minister, General Qin Jiwei, called on him in Dhaka yesterday. The vice president expressed the hope that China will promote joint venture industries in Bangladesh.

The Chinese defense minister also called on Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed yesterday. Kazi Zafar said China is a trusted friend and Sino-Bangladesh friendship has attained a new dimension. He referred to the Chinese cooperation to overcome the natural disasters and the state credits under favorable terms and conditions to help build the economy of the country.

General Qin Jiwei said it is the steadfast policy of the Chinese government to develop cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

The deputy chief of general staff of the People's Liberation Army, Lieutenant General Han Huaizhi, and Chinese Ambassador Chen Songlu were present on the occasion.

India

4 Killed by Police During Haryana Elections

BK2802130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] In Haryana, at least four persons were killed and 15 injured today when the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] opened fire on a group of people trying to capture booths at Bansi village during repolling in the

Meham assembly constituency. The state chief minister, Mr. Om Prakash Chautala, is contesting from this constituency.

Agency reports say repolling in eight polling stations of this constituency were suspended this afternoon. The suspension was ordered following the firing.

Army Sent to Haryana

BK2802160090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Here is a flash: In Haryana, the Army has been called in in the Meham constituency of Rohtak District. The state home secretary told our Chandigarh correspondent that the step has been taken in a bid to restore confidence among the people and assist the civil administration in view of the prevailing tension in the town.

Congress-I Faces 'Severe Reverses' in Poll

BK2802165290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Excerpts] As the results for assembly elections continue to pour in, early results' trends indicate that the Congress-I is facing severe reverses in six states. The Congress-I and AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] combine is involved in a neck-and-neck race with the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham]-led alliance in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The Janata Dal has established leads in Gujarat and Orissa, while the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] candidates are ahead in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh as the counting of votes is in progress in seven states and Pondicherry. In Maharashtra, the counting will be taken up tomorrow. [passage omitted]

In the Union Territory of Pondicherry, the Congress-I-AIADMK combine is maintaining its slender lead over the DMK-led front. Out of 20 results declared so far, the Congress-I has bagged nine, and the AIADMK two. DMK has won in six constituencies, while Janata Dal has emerged victorious in three seats.

In Orissa, of the 34 results declared so far, the Janata Dal has bagged 27, Congress-I four, CPI [Communist Party of India] two, and Independent one. [passage omitted] The latest trends from the state indicate that the Janata Dal is leading in more than 100 constituencies, the Congres-I in nine, CPI in three, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and BJP one each.

In Rajasthan, of the 49 results declared so far, 26 have gone in favor of the BJP, 10 to Congress-I, and 13 to Janata Dal. The former chief minister and present minister of planning, Mr. Hiralal Devpura, of the Congress-I has been declared elected from Kumbalgarh constituency. Trends available from the state indicate that the BJP is leading in 49 constituencies. The Congress-I is ahead of its rivals in 29, while the Janata Dal has established a lead in 21 constituencies.

The Janata Dal has established an early lead in Gujarat, bagging 10 out of 18 seats declared so far; the BJP has won in five, while the Congress-I has got three seats. [passage omitted]

In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP is leading over the ruling Congress-I by bagging 34 seats out of 44 for which results have been declared so far. The Congress-I has so far managed to win only seven seats. The Janata Dal has won two seats, while an Independent was victorious in one constituency. The trends indicate that many top Congress-I leaders are trailing. [passage omitted]

In Bihar, counting is in progress in 79 constituencies. The counting trends indicate that the Janata Dal is leading in 20 constituencies, Congress-I in 17, BJP in 14, JMM [Jharkhand Mukti Morcha] 10, CPI in nine, IPF [Indian People's Front] four, Janata Party-JP in two, Independents two, and MCC [Maoist Communist Center] in one constituency. Counting in Jhanjarpur constituency—where the chief minister, Dr. Jagannath Misra, is contesting—will be taken up tomorrow. Early reports say that Dr. Misra was trailing behind his Janata Dal rival.

In Himachal Pradesh, results of 23 out of 65 assembly constituencies for which elections were held have been declared so far. Of these, BJP has bagged 17 followed by Congress-I four, and the Janata Dal and CPI one each. In (Gheog) constituency, the speaker, Mrs. Vidya Sarok of the Congress-I has been declared elected, defeating her nearest Janata Dal rival. [passage omitted]

Here is the latest election results from Rajasthan. The former state chief minister and the BJP vice president, Mr. Bhairon Singh Sekhawat, has been declared elected from Chabra constituency. He defeated his nearest Independent candidate, Mr. Tejpal Singh, by a margin of over 35,000 votes. The latest party position: total seats 200, election held 199, results declared 72, BJP 41, Janata Dal 18, Congress-I 13.

'Dethroned From Power'

BK0103044290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] In the assembly elections, the ruling Congress-I has been routed from the states of Orissa, Gujarat, and Rajasthan, and is trailing in Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

The Janata Dal [JD] got two-third majority in Orissa, while the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] is heading for a landslide victory in Madhya Pradesh. The party is also leading in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

In Gujarat, no single party secured a clear majority, but the Janata Dal with 70 seats and the BJP with 64 together secured more than two-third majority. The ruling Congress-I is left far behind with only 33 seats.

In Pondicherry, the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham]-led front secured 16 seats, while the Congress-I

and AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] alliance got 14 seats. One seat went to an independent.

In Bihar, 18 results have come so far. The BJP got six, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha [JMM] four, and the Congress-I and the Janata Dal three each. The CPI [Communist Party of India] and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] got one each.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the Congress-I has bagged all the four seats for which the results have been declared so far.

In Maharashtra, the counting is being taken up today.

In Orissa, the Janata Dal has secured two-thirds majority in the 147-member state assembly, while the ruling Congress-I suffered a total setback, securing only 10 seats so far. With 18 more results yet to come in, the Janata Dal has already bagged 107 seats, the CPI candidates have won in five, CPI-M one, BJP two, and independents four. [passage omitted]

In the union territory of Pondicherry, the much-awaited result of Modeliarpeth has gone to CPI, thus raising the DMK, Janata Dal, and CPI alliance to 15 seats in the 30-member house. The DMK front is now dependent on the support of the lone independent member elected from Thirunallar constituency to enjoy majority in the house. The Congress-I emerged as the single largest party in the assembly having won 11 of the 17 seats it contested. Its ally, the AIADMK, has bagged three seats. The DMK leader, Mr. D. Ramachandran, has said that the DMK-led front would stake its claim to form the government. He claimed that the DMK front has got a comfortable majority. However, the course of action to be adopted, he said, will be decided by the DMK leadership in Madras. Mr. Ramachandran told our correspondent that the newly-elected DMK members are going to Madras today to meet the DMK president, Mr. M. Karunanidhi.

In Gujarat, no single party has emerged with a clear majority. Of the 181 out of 182 results declared so far, the two main opposition parties—the Janata Dal and the BJP—together have mustered more than two-thirds of the seats. The Janata Dal has claimed 70 seats, while 64 have gone to BJP. The ruling Congress-I has secured only 33, while 14 seats have been claimed by independents and others. Counting in one seat—Surat West—is to be taken up only after the repolling in five polling booths of the constituency slated for Sunday. The chief minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, has been declared elected, while seven of his cabinet colleagues and eight ministers of state have lost the election. However, two cabinet ministers and three ministers of state have emerged victorious at the polls. [passage omitted]

In Madhya Pradesh, the Congress-I has been dethroned from power. Out of the 191 results declared so far, the party has managed to secure only 40 seats. The BJP is in the forefront having secured 132 seats, while Janata Dal has won in 12 constituencies. Among the prominent winners are the state chief minister, Mr. Shyamacharan Shukla; former state chief ministers, Mr. Motilal Vora and Mr. Arjun Singh; and the president of the state unit of the BJP, Mr. Sunderlal Patwa. [passage omitted]

In Rajasthan, the Congress has been dethroned from power. Out of the 178 results declared so far, the party has managed to secure only 44 seats. The BJP has won in 81 constituencies, while Janata Dal has emerged victorious in 46 seats. The independents have won seven seats. Among the prominent winners are the state chief minister, Mr. Harideo Joshi; the former chief minister and the BJP vice president, Mr. Bhairon Singh Sekhawat, who won from the two constituencies; the former chief minister, Mr. Jagannath Pahadia; the state ministers—Mr. Bulaki Das Kalla, Mr. Hiralal Deopura, and Mr. Ramsingh Vishnoi. [passage omitted]

In Himachal Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party is well on its way to win an absolute majority in the 68-member assembly. The party has secured 20 of the 28 results declared so far. The Congress-I, which suffered severe reverses, has won in four constituencies, while the Janata Dal has claimed three and the CPI one. [passage omitted]

Here is the latest position from Bihar. Total seats 324, elections held 323, results declared 21, BJP 6, Congress-I, JMM four, JD 3, CPI-M one, CPI one.

In Arunachal Pradesh, counting for six of the 60 assembly seats will be taken up today. Four results have already been declared, two of them unopposed. All the four have gone in favor of the Congress-I. In the remaining constituencies, counting will be taken up in the next three days. [passage omitted]

Assembly Elections Updated

BK0103101190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Congress-I which is voted out of power in five states appears to be doing well in Maharashtra, having established leads in 82 of 159 constituencies from where the trends are available till now. Reports say that the Shiv Sena is leading in 31, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in 17, and Janata Dal [JD] in 12. The chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar is leading against his nearest rival over a margin of 20,000 votes.

The picture is still not clear in Bihar where all the major parties are engaged in a neck and neck battle for supremacy. The BJP and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha have secured eight each in the 35 results declared so far. The Congress-I and the Janata Dal have bagged six each.

The Baharatiya Janata Party is emerging as a single largest party in three of the eight states which went to the assembly polls last Tuesday [27 February]. The party is heading toward absolute majority in Madhya Pradesh, winning 148 out of the 216 results announced in the 320-member house. In Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, the BJP is ahead of all other parties.

A clear picture has now emerged in the states of Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and the Union Territory of Pondicherry, while results are coming in from Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh.

In Orissa, the Janata Dal has secured a three-fourths majority in the 147-member house.

In Gujarat and Rajasthan no single party could secure an absolute majority, but the BJP and the Janata Dal together have secured a three-fourths majority. In Gujarat, the Janata Dal secured 70 and the BJP 66 in the 182-member house. In Rajasthan, the BJP got 85 seats while Janata Dal 54, followed by Congress-I 49.

In Pondicherry, the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham], Janata Dal, CPI [Communist Party of India] alliance have secured 15 seats, while the Congress-I AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] alliance got 14 seats in the 30-member house. One seat has gone to an independent. [passage omitted]

All except one result from Orissa have come in. The Janata Dal has secured a three-fourths majority by winning 123 seats in the 147-member assembly. The Congress-I suffered a total set back securing only 10; the CPI bagged five while the BJP has won two seats; CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has got one. Five results have gone in favor of independents. [passage omitted]

The Orissa chief minister, Mr. Hemananda Biswal, today tendered his resignation to the state governor following his party's defeat in the assembly elections. [passage omitted]

In Rajasthan, with only three results yet to come in, no party is likely to get absolute majority. With 196 results declared so far, the BJP has emerged as the single largest party, bagging 85 seats, followed by the Janata Dal with 54, the Congress-I, 48. Independent candidates have won eight seats. One has gone to the CPI-M. [passage omitted]

The state chief minister, Mr. Hari Deo Joshi, has resigned. According to UNI, he submitted his resignation to the state governor in Jaipur this morning. [passage omitted]

In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP is continuing its winning spree already winning 148 seats out of 216 results of which have already been declared. The Congress-I is following with 42 and the Janata Dal has won 16 seats. The latest party position is as follows:
Total seats: 320
Elections held: 319
Results declared: 216
BJP: 148
Congress-I: 42
JD: 16
CPI: 3
BSP: 1
Independents: 6 [passage omitted]

In Himachal Pradesh, results of 31 assembly constituencies have so far come in. The BJP has bagged 23 while four seats have gone to the Congress-I, three to the Janata Dal, and one to the CPI. [passage omitted]

Gujral: UN Has No Role in Kashmir Issue

BK2802170090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] The External Affairs Minister Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral has said there is no way the United Nations could come into the picture in the present situation in Kashmir, as it was India's internal affair and not a problem between India and Pakistan.

Replying to questions at an informal news conference in Hyderabad today, the minister said any agitation in Kashmir has to be tackled within the democratic framework of the country. Reiterating the government's stand on the Kashmir issue, Mr. Gujral said India had produced evidence of Pakistani intervention in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

7 Nigerians Arrested for Smuggling Heroin

BK2602151090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1426 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 26 (AFP)—Indian customs officers arrested seven Nigerians here Monday [26 February] who allegedly tried to smuggle out more than 18 kilograms (40 pounds) of pure heroin concealed in an array of items including jigsaw puzzles.

The six men and one woman were produced before a court which remanded them in police custody for 14 days, Assistant Customs Collector A.K. Prasad said. John Obumneml, Emmanuel Uzodinma, Gregory Ufaroh, Juliana Amaka Igwebinke, Chukwama Okpala, Taiwo Olajide Delima and Caleb Okpala face imprisonment for a minimum six months and a maximum 11 years if they are found guilty.

They were to board a KLM flight for Lagos via Amsterdam when they were arrested at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here, Mr. Prasad said.

The heroin, worth about 15 million dollars at international market rate, was packed into plastic bags sprinkled with chili powder to prevent detection by sniffer dogs, he said. The bags were concealed in an array of items including cavities built into children's jigsaw puzzles and cooking casseroles.

Mr. Prasad said the Nigerians' baggage was checked after they were found acting in a "furtive" manner.

Iran

U.N. Statement on Resolution 598 Submitted

LD0103104190 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, March 1, IRNA—The U.N. Security Council statement on the Resolution 598 was officially submitted to Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. on Wednesday.

The statement issued by the council members at the end of a session on Tuesday on Iran-Iraq peace talks, was handed over to Kamal Kharrazi by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Perez de Cuellar expressed his satisfaction with the statement which he said is the first decisive statement in support of his peace efforts issued by the Security Council after it approved the U.N. Resolution 598 on Iran-Iraq war. He said that he wanted to make the best use of this important document and resume his efforts for implementation of the resolution.

Perez de Cuellar also expressed hope that as in the past Iran would cooperate with him and his representative.

Kharrazi told the U.N. chief that after 18 months of delay in implementation of the resolution it was time that the secretary general took immediate and firm steps for execution of the resolution.

Kharrazi also announced Iran's readiness for studying the agenda proposed by the secretary general upon receiving the report.

Nuri Comments on 'Amusing' Foreign Media Reports

LD2802182190 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri today brushed aside as 'amusing', tales spun by the media horns of global arrogance of demonstrations in Iran over the past few days against officials.

"When we close down the BBC bureau in Tehran we should not expect this mercenary radio station to beam facts," he added.

Hoj. Nuri was addressing a press conference on the eve of the birth anniversary of the prophet's (PBUH) [peace be upon him] grandson Imam Husayn (PBUH), an event celebrated in the Islamic Republic as IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] Day.

He said foreign radio stations were busy scavenging so as to play down the grandeur of the February 11 rallies staged nationwide on the occasion of 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution's victory in Iran.

"Our enemies outside the country did not expect such magnificent rallies, but the grandeur of the marches made them acknowledge it," said the interior minister. It is natural for the enemies with their huge propaganda machinery to try to belittle such a great event, he noted.

Asked about the postponement of the two football matches on February 16 because of heavy rain and snow the day before, which disappointed the large group of fans gathered outside the stadium, he expressed regret that football-lovers had not been informed in advance.

"Some elements numbering not more than a few hundred tried to exploit the situation issue by chanting slogans against the football federation officials in protest to the postponement of the matches... the clamour lasted an hour," he said. "Since the February 16 incident, we have had no such problems in Tehran or elsewhere in Iran... all stories cooked up by the foreign mass media are nothing but silly jokes," the minister said.

Elsewhere in his interview, the interior minister who is also the leader's representative to the IRGC, lauded the Islamic Revolution Committee for their success against drug-trafficking and for seizure of eight tons of narcotics over the past three months.

Government Said Bargaining on Hostage Issue

NC2702105690 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0600 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] AP cited the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] in Paris yesterday and announced that to divert attention from the Human Rights Commission report, Iran has resorted to bargaining over the hostage issue. The news agency added that the MKO is the real resistance movement of Iran and has reported that for the past few months, the Iranian regime has tried to portray an unrealistic and contrary picture of its atrocities in order to combat the massive wave of domestic and international recrimination. The clerics themselves said that even before Galindo Pohl's report, they had begun using the hostage issue as a trump card, especially to extort concessions, and later to suppress this report and present it in their favor. AP, citing evidence in this regard, remarks that the Lebanese cleric in Lebanon, Shaykh Muhammad Fadlallah, called for a new approach to the hostages' release. He said we should seek realistic and humanitarian means for the hostages' release.

The day before the TEHRAN TIMES, which usually mirrors Hashemi-Rafsanjani's way of thinking, called for the hostages' release. This was the first sign of adopting such a position from a mouthpiece of the Iranian regime.

At the end of its report, AP cites another section of the MKO statement and says: The MKO hopes that what the Khomeyni regime's leaders are attributing to Galindo Pohl's report is not true. While disseminating the MKO statement issued yesterday, AP announced that the Iranian regime's leaders have resorted to some sort of deal in order to conceal facts divulged by Galindo Pohl's report.

Following the humiliation from the arcane negotiations between the U.S. delegation and Hashemi-Rafsanjani's representatives on U.S. hostages in Lebanon, the Khomeyni regime attempted to destroy the issue by issuing a rebuttal. The Iranian regime in France issued this humiliating statement, and the Voice of Mojahed disseminated news of this collusion a while ago.

Meanwhile, the London newspaper THE INDEPENDENT in its 23 February issue reported that Washington and Tehran are involved in a new series of clandestine talks in Paris and Oman. These talks focus on the fate of hostages from the United States and other countries. In an interview with the BBC on releasing U.S. hostages, an international affairs expert disclosed that the Iranian regime had been engaged in negotiations with Americans. Also, the Iranian regime believes that only the Americans can satisfy the regime's most basic needs. Continuing his interview yesterday, the expert said: There are some in Tehran who believe that the hostages should be released now because the accruing benefit and merit is important in forging relations with the West.

Turkish Premier Continues Visit to Tehran

Views Bilateral Relations, Trade

TA2702222090 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut, who is in Tehran on an official visit, has called on Iran and other friendly Islamic countries to react against the oppression of the Muslim Turkish minority in Bulgaria and Western Thrace. Iranian First Deputy President Hasan Habibi, gave a dinner in his honor. Akbulut, in an address during the dinner, in which he recalled that Turkey and Iran lived in peace and tranquility for many years. Pointing out that the two neighboring countries went through a very difficult period when their friendly relationship weakened, Akbulut said that successful and prosperous steps were taken when this relationship strengthened.

He stated that for the implementation of projects included in its five-year development plan, Iran could benefit from the experience and ability of the Turkish contracting firms. He added that, in the long run, certain significant infrastructural projects could constitute an appropriate basis for a multilateral and lasting cooperation.

According to a report by Necmettin Irkan and Serdar Dimli from the Turkish Radio and Television News Center, Akbulut recalled that Turkey and Iran are located in one of the most sensitive regions of the world. He added: It is necessary to watch closely and assess the changes taking place and the search for cooperation in our region and other parts of the world, first and foremost in Europe. Within this framework, we desire the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] that was set up by Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan to be revived, so that it can contribute to regional economic prosperity.

Referring to various foreign issues, Akbulut said that Turkey was pleased with the termination of the cold war in Europe. He expressed his wish that similar constructive developments take place in other parts of the world mainly in the Middle East, the Gulf, and Western Asia.

He declared that despite the positive developments in Bulgaria, the fate of the Turkish minority living there has not improved. Concluding his address, he said: Recognizing and confirming the fact that our Islamic Turkish brethren in Cyprus are a separate people with equal political rights is imperative for the solution of the problem. The deceiving propaganda moves of the Greek Cypriot side must not be taken into consideration. We are expecting Iran and other friendly Islamic countries to support our cause and to react against the oppression of the Muslim Turkish minority living in Bulgaria and Western Thrace and the injustices to which they are being subjected.

In turn, Habibi recalled that relations between the two countries have been further strengthened in the last 10 years. He said that should economic cooperation between the two countries grow and expand to other Islamic countries, then constructive results can be achieved. He added that on this subject the ECO—whose importance can be appreciated when economic groups being formed in other parts of the world are taken into consideration—could set a good example.

Tomorrow Akbulut will visit Esfahan, an important Iranian industrial city, for a study tour. Akbulut and the delegation accompanying him will return home on 2 March.

Habibi Speaks at Dinner

LD2802213690 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Islamic Republic of Iran's First Vice President, Dr. Habibi, said despite Iran's good intentions and the decision of implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 598, the Iraqi regime creates [word indistinct] in this regard and refuses to withdraw its forces to the internationally recognized borders.

Speaking at a dinner banquet in honor of the Turkish Prime Minister, Yildirim Akbulut, Mr. Habibi pointed to liberation moves in Asia, Africa, and Europe and the special position of the Islamic movement in the world and called for further cooperation among the Islamic States, to resolve the problems of [word indistinct] Palestine, Lebanon, and Afghanistan. He said Iran supports the formation of an Islamic, independent, and nonaligned government in Afghanistan. He further said the only solution to the Palestine issue is the formation of a Palestinian government in that land.

The Turkish prime minister pointed to the significance of the Irano-Turkish relations and said the continuation of the state of no war no peace between Iran and Iraq causes unrest in the region.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0103120990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Yildirim Akbulut, the prime minister of Turkey who is in Tehran at the head of a high-level economic-political delegation, met Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Republic, this morning.

At this meeting, in which First Vice President Habibi, Minister of Heavy Industries Nejad-Hoseyniyan, a Turkish minister of state, and the two countries' ambassadors also were present, the Turkish prime minister first presented the warm and sincere greetings of Mr. Turgut Ozal, president of Turkey, as well as his congratulations on Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's election to the Presidency. He then informed our president of a report on the deliberations of the meeting of the two countries' joint commission. He declared that the Government of Turkey was fully prepared to expand as much as possible cooperation in all fields of interest to the two countries.

Referring to the long historical and cultural ties between the two neighboring Muslim countries of Iran and Turkey, he expressed his hope for ever-deepening relations between the two countries during the reconstruction era.

Thanking the Turkish president for his warm and friendly greetings, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani wished full success for the meeting of the two countries' joint commission. He then said: We are sincerely willing to expand our relations with our neighborly, friendly country, Turkey. I believe Iran and Turkey can set themselves up as an example of vast and comprehensive cooperation between two neighboring countries.

Referring to similarities between the two countries, the president hoped for ever greater expansion of cooperation between Iran and Turkey. In addition, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed tripartite cooperation among Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, saying: Through tripartite cooperation, we can achieve still greater cooperation in solving the region's problems.

Referring to the deprivation of Muslims in some countries, the president said: In our policy, we are duty bound to support Muslims everywhere, without interfering in the affairs of others. We believe that Muslims should not feel that they have no refuge.

At the end of the meeting, the Turkish prime minister informed our president of an official invitation by Mr. Turgut Ozal, president of Turkey, for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Turkey. This invitation was accepted.

Confers With Karrubi

LD0103121790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Yildirim Akbulut, met Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, this morning. According to the Central News Unit, at this meeting, in which a number of Majles representatives, as well as the ambassadors of the two countries were present, the Turkish prime minister referred to the relations between the two countries and expressed his hope for increased stability in those ties in the future. He also hoped that the two countries would take long-term cooperation into consideration.

The Turkish prime minister called for a revival of the cooperation among the three countries of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan through the Economic Cooperation Organization. He wished for the removal of legal obstacles in the way of this cooperation and asked the Majles for help in this regard.

Referring to the imposed war, he expressed regret that the state of no war, no peace continued. He said: We sincerely wish that the status quo would end through a fruition of peace between the two countries. We will provide any help in that regard which might be within our capability and we would be happy to do so.

Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, expressed his hope that with regard to good relations between the two countries, such relations would expand as much as possible through sincere action of the officials of the two countries.

The Majles speaker declared that the Majles was ready to bring about an expansion of relations between the two parliaments, as well as setting up parliamentary friendship groups. He said such moves would be effective in expanding ties between the two countries.

Stressing the goodwill of the Islamic Republic of Iran in full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, Mr. Karrubi said: We want Resolution 598 to be implememented; we ask all friendly countries, including Turkey, to put pressure on Iraq to implement the resolution so that a lasting peace in the region be established and that anxieties in the region may decrease.

At the end of his remarks, the Majles speaker expressed his hope that relations between the two countries would expand in various dimensions.

Kurdish Leader 'Izz-al-Din Al-Husayni Interviewed

PM2202094490 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 20 Feb 90 p 30

[Interview with Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al-Husayni, "spiritual and political leader of the Iranian Kurds," by unidentified correspondent in "an Arab state"; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] Why were you forced to leave your homeland, Iran? Was it because of your being the leader of groups which resisted the regime by force of arms, or because of your being a religious symbol who differed with the Iranian leadership?

[Al-Husayni] It is known that the Kurdish people in Iran have struggled for decades for their freedom, independence, and self-determination. That people helped to topple of the former regime for the sake of these objectives. After Khomeyni assumed power we tried to reach an understanding with him by political means, but the Iranian leadership maintained the same position. In fact Khomeyni declared the "jihad" against the Kurdish people, on the grounds that they are an infidel people and that it is permissible to murder their Muslim sons.

So we took up arms to assert our people's rights. After three months of armed struggle Khomeyni was forced to deal with us. So he sent his envoys to resolve the outstanding problems between us and him. But it was discovered later that he was not in earnest in this. He just wanted to play for time in order to strengthen and organize his position. Then, having settled his internal accounts, he launched a campaign against us in spring 1980. As a result, the fighting escalated and we were forced to evacuate the towns and move to the mountains. The resistance continued for many years. Then I left to reside in Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] It is said that since Hashemi-Rafsanjani's election as president the regime has become more moderate. Is it true?

[Al-Husayni] There are two wings in the Iranian regime: one extremist and the other moderate. What is meant by moderation is relative, not absolute, moderation. Of course Hashemi-Rafsanjani is trying to strengthen his relations with the United States in order to hit the other wing, but he is unable to do so because Khomeyni's influence on the Iranian scene is still strong.

[Correspondent] What about the new guide, 'Ali Khamene'i—is he a moderate or a hard-liner?

[Al-Husayni] Khamene'i sided with the Hashemi-Rafsanjani group.

[Correspondent] Which is the stronger wing at present?

[Al-Husayni] Hashemi-Rafsanjani's. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In your view, since you are familiar with conditions in Iran, what political and religious objectives did the Iranian regime seek to achieve from the Mecca bombings during the pilgrimage season?

[Al-Husayni] The principal objective behind those bombings was to destroy the world Islamic Sunni center represented by holy Mecca and al-Madinah on the blessed territory of the king of Saudi Arabia. Most regrettably, the Iranians believe that the true Islam is the Shiite creed. They believe that other Muslims have deviated from Islam. [passage omitted]

Sadatiyan Appointed Head of Presidential Advisers

LD2402182590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] In a decree issued by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mr. Jamal Sadatiyan has been appointed as the head of the office of presidential advisers [ra'is-e 'omur-e moshaveran-e nahad-e riyasat-e jomhuri]

President Chairs Petrochemical Company Meeting

LD2202224390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The general meeting of the National Petrochemical Company was convened under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In that meeting, at first, the oil minister presented a report about the activities of that company within the current year. Then the amended budget for the current year, and the proposed budget for next year [21 March 1990 to 20 March 1991] were ratified.

In that meeting, further, the activities of that company in the field of production of 2 million tonnes of petrochemical material, and the continuation of executive works on some plans—for which 80 billion rials investment has been earmarked in the current year—were described. It was further predicted that more than 3 million tonnes of various kinds of petrochemical material will be produced within the next year, and that investment on fundamental and development plans of that company will exceed 214 billion rials next year, most of which will be provided by the banking system.

Lack of International Refugee Aid Criticized

LD2502220990 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Arak (Markazi Prov), Feb. 25, IRNA—An Interior Ministry official Sunday criticised international organizations for lack of cooperation with the Islamic Republic in helping Afghan refugees in Iran. Iran hosts around four million refugees, he said, some 3 million of whom are Afghans and one million Iraqi Muslims including Kurds and Arabs.

The official in charge of expatriate and refugee affairs was speaking at the Mehman-Shahr (guest-city) refugee camp in Saveh city while escorting a delegation of representatives of related United Nations agencies and four foreign ambassadors. Caring for the refugees and paying attention to their problems is "deeply rooted in our religious beliefs," he added.

A third of all Afghan refugees in Iran are settled in camps while the remaining two thirds are absorbed by different towns and cities, he said, noting that the latter enjoy all necessary facilities.

Those lodged in the camps, he reminded, enjoy food, housing, medical and other facilities, the major part of which is paid for through the national budget.

The official stressed although the aid rendering by international organizations to refugees in Iran is meagre compared to the refugees' needs, the Islamic Republic still maintains good relations with these bodies.

Towards the end of the ceremony, the foreign delegates promised to report to the related organisations, and hoped that help would be rendered to the islamic Republic concerning refugee affairs.

Representative of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) thanked the Islamic Republic for its "humanitarian assistance" with no expectations from international organizations.

*Paper Claims Nationals Imprisoned in USSR

90OI0177C London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[Text] Iranians who had gone to Soviet soil during the rush of residents of both shores of the Aras River were arrested by security agents of that country, and 77 of them are imprisoned.

A KGB security official announced a few days ago on Baku television: "Those who have entered Russian soil from Iranian Azerbaijan shall be in prison for at least one month to undergo the necessary investigation."

The Russian news agencies did not reveal the nature of those arrested, but it is thought that most of them were propagators dispatched by the Islamic Republic.

During the days when Soviet Azerbaijan was suffering from riots and disturbances, a group of people in Azerbaijan attacked the watchtowers on the borders of both countries, and after setting the guard stations on fire, they destroyed the watchtowers.

At that time, a large number of the residents on both sides of the Aras went to the opposite shore. During the weeks that disturbances and demonstrations had spread throughout Azerbaijan, Armenia, and the Nakhichevan areas, Iranian radios and the press escalated their normal religious propaganda and invited the people of Azerbaijan to come to Iran and participate in religious activities. Also, a group of seminary students and prayer leaders at the border areas delivered religious speeches with loudspeakers on the Iranian shores and opened their arms to receive the Azeris from the other side.

KEYHAN HAVA'I, which reported this matter, wrote: "Two Muslim Soviet citizens took part in a press conference upon their departure from Iran and said: What has spread among the Soviet Muslims as Islam is quite different from what we have seen in Iran. They said that Islamic culture has been eradicated from the Muslim-populated Soviet republic, and, contrary to Iran, Islam is being annihilated in the Soviet Union."

Commentary Urges USSR To Reassess Policies

NC1602153390 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Feb 90 p 12

['A. Marvi commentary: "The Interests of Perestroyka and New Considerations in the 'Third World'"]

[Text] When Moscow ordered Soviet forces to the Azerbaijan Republic and chose to use force in confronting the Azerbaijanis, undoubtedly Mr. Gorbachev and his colleagues had calculated the dangers of the negative reactions from the Soviet Union's Muslim neighbors. The Soviet military act in Azerbaijan—which stemmed from the need to confront the culminating crisis of 'the problem of nationalities'—had a negative impact on public opinion in some Muslim and Arab countries.

Meanwhile, although the Soviet Union's Muslim neighbors wanted to continue to cooperate with Moscow in order to erase the impact of the army's intervention in Baku and to direct the developments toward political talks between the sides involved, nevertheless the Soviet Army's intervention in Baku—even though an act with a domestic motive and something related to Mr. Gorbachev's perestroyka and glasnost—is considered as an "embryonic development" in the Soviet Union's foreign policy toward its "Third World neighbors." In other words, it seems that the Soviet Union's policy in East and West Europe is going through a serious phase of development which conforms with the considerations and interests of its European neighbors; and the Soviet Union's conciliatory stand on the idea of the unity of the two Germanys is a clear example of this. However, the Soviet Union's behavior toward its neighbors and especially toward Islamic and Arab countries whose interests are completely contrary to those of the West, are also directed toward the interests of the West.

This trend is proceeding and stabilizing and it seems that this stand was adopted when, in its process of discovery, perestroyka had to choose between its interests in or considerations toward Third World policies.

The increased wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories—something which gave rise to a concerted negative reaction by the Arab world or the very place where Soviet interests always enjoyed strategic value—is considered yet more proof of this new trend.

Within the framework of commitments based on the 1975 Helsinki agreement—and the extent to which the Kremlin observes these commitments has been considered as a yardstick for the West's technical and economic assistances to the Soviet Union—not only has the Soviet Union not obstructed the Soviet Jews' immigration to the occupied territories in any way, but it has emphasized the Jews' "right" to emigrate. The mass immigration of the Soviet Jews to the occupied territories—which ultimately results in their settling on the West Bank of Jordan and in the Gaza Strip—helps to

strengthen the position of Yitzhaq Shamir and his colleagues in the obstinate Likkud faction who oppose any kind of solution with the PLO and consider the Arab moderates as a means toward "peace for land." This is at a time when Moscow has merely sufficed itself to explaining its policy vis-a-vis the Arab and Muslim world's completely negative reaction, and has announced that it will not intervene in the departure of the Jews or in the choice of their destination. Even though Moscow has expressed concern about the possible settlement of the Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, it has rejected the PLO's request that the number of immigrants be limited and has said that "ensuring" that the new immigrants will not be settled in the occupied territories is contingent on an international agreement!

The immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories puts more pressure on the PLO for more concessions, and it has had to "put" many of its cards on the table. The first and most urgent impact of this will be felt by the Palestinians who live in the occupied territories and by the intifadah. How this mass immigration to the occupied territories will affect the Arab-Israeli compromise, Jordan's political future, Syria's and Iraq's relations with the Moscow, Egypt's role in this process, and the Soviet Union's relations with the Islamic world will have to be studied separately.

The most sensitive point now is the fact that Soviet diplomacy should seriously assess the dimensions, future, and effects of its new trends on the Islamic and Arab world, and not threaten its interests for the sake of solving its problems with the West.

ETTELA'AT Comments on Soviet 'Reformist Policies'

NC2202160690 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 14 Feb 90 pp 20, 4

[Farzad Mamduhi commentary: "Ending the Monopoly of Leadership in the CPSU: A Test for Glasnost"]

[Excerpts] After the election of Mikhail Gorbachev as secretary general of the CPSU, none of the high-ranking Soviet party officials thought that Gorbachev's reformist policies would one day also extend to include the CPSU's monopolistic rule. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev's proposals to the CPSU Central Committee on changing the Soviet Union's one-party system to a multiparty democracy can be described as a test for glasnost.

At this juncture, Mr. Gorbachev needs the support of the reformists in order to take the steps which he so impatiently wants to take.

The recent decision by the CPSU Central Committee on Mr. Gorbachev's proposal, which was supported by the reformist faction of the Communist Party, strengthens the view that the series of reforms that have taken place in the five years since Mr. Gorbachev came to power have been steps toward the weakening of the rule of Marxist-Leninist ideology. Some analysts of Soviet affairs, however, who base their deductions on Mr. Gorbachev's book "Perestroyka," see the developments in the Soviet Union as steps toward the revival of Marxism-Leninism. [passage omitted]

Under current conditions, the conservative and traditional faction of the Communist Party may embark on fresh efforts to weaken and slow down the pace of reforms in the Soviet Union.

These efforts may take the various forms listed below:

1. Fanning the flames of the deep-rooted internecine crisis, which is one of the major deterrents as far as the process of reform in the Soviet Union is concerned, and intensifying the ethnic differences between the Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia in a bid to exploit this conflict politically.

2. Intensifying the economic crisis and reducing production of staple products, while attributing this to Mr. Gorbachev's perestroyka and glasnost.

3. Stressing the principles of Marxism-Leninism and pointing out that everything done by the new Soviet leadership falls outside the framework of this ideology.

4. Questioning Mr. Gorbachev's foreign policy as far as the unilateral reduction of strategic arms and relations with the United States and West Europe—the torchbearers of the system of capitalism—are concerned.

5. Criticizing the Soviet leadership's various policies in the past concerning the East European countries' choice of new political systems, and portraying these as going against Moscow's traditional interests and weakening the Soviet Union's influence on East European countries.

6. Instigating influential commanders in the Red Army to resort to acts which will ultimately force the members of the Politburo to resign.

Since traditionally the structure of the Soviet Union is based on a series of party formalities and the Politburo dictates policies to the Central Committee, the Soviet of People's Deputies, and the CPSU Congress, the above threats to Mr. Gorbachev's reforms can be described as serious.

It seems that the current reformist spirit in the Soviet Union will be able to achieve its pre-determined objectives only if the new Soviet leadership thinks first and foremost of how to strengthen the new political, economic, cultural, and social structures that it has created so far and, by understanding the depth of the realities of Soviet society, refrains from any step that will threaten the current trend—steps such as the military intervention of the Red Army in Soviet Azerbaijan. Otherwise, the various economic, political, and ethnic crises—some of which have been listed above—which the Soviet

Union is now suffering from could lead to the disintegration of the current system in the long run, or could give the communist hardliners the opportunity to resume power in a new form.

In a nutshell, one should admit that the reformist faction in the Soviet Union took political power because of an unavoidable need that had been felt for many years. Having the choice between two alternatives—the continuation of the life of Marxism-Leninism and the continuation of the political life of the Soviet Union as a number one power in the world—it chose the second, and it is now moving swiftly to implement this choice seriously in all fields.

Paper Condemns British MP's Statement to UN

NC2302085790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "British Commons Show Their Rage to Islamic Iran Anew"]

[Text] Some 248 members of the British House of Commons signed a statement Friday calling for the ouster of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the United Nations. The harsh-worded statement, itself a manifest of a cheaply driven rage and sentimentalism, also said that Iran should be represented at the U.N. by the Mojahedin-e (Monafiqin) Khalq Organization (MKO).

The main question now is why has the statement been timed to be out at this juncture in time? What are the reasons for the M.P.s to bat for an alternative for the Islamic government in Iran with as blotted a record as that of the MKO's?

Apparently the British government has tried to put some pressure on Iran through a non-government [as published] organ, the House of Commons. The objective for this so-called steamrolling is to transfer to Iran at least part of the crisis that has hit the United Kingdom anew on the anniversary of the death sentence decreed by the late Imam Khomeyni against the blasphemous author of "The Satanic Verses" Salman Rushdie last year. The Thatcher Government is trying to throw the ball into Iran's court. All this is of course meant to undermine the Iranian officials' upperhand position and corner them in a defensive stance.

The number of the signatories of the statement, 248, is by far less than even half of the total 658 seats of the House. But regardless of the insignificance of this new tactic to pressre Iran (even if the entire House would have signed the statement) the charge brought up against Iran is very obnoxious. The signatories have accused Iran of having terrorism as "one of its inherent characteristics."

But the cheapness of both the accusation and the mentality of the signatories becomes so evident when one remembers that MKO and terrorism are just inseparable. Given whatever definition the British and their other Western allies might have for terrorism, the MKO is organizationally committed to terrorism and regards it as its infrastructural principle. This commitment of course has been very practically shown particularly since 1981 in Iran.

As such, if Iran is to be condemned, quite out of a blind rage and bias, for terrorism, and if the British Parliamentarians place any value on their own judgment, how can they suggest the terrorist MKO as an alternative for the Iranian government?

So what is it really that the House of Commons have put their credibility at stake by siding with an organization as nefarious as the MKO?

The answer has to be sought in the animosity of the MKO towards the Iranian government. The Parliamentarians are supporting them only because of their hostility to Iran, a hostility that caused the bankrupt MKO to decline as low as even becoming a quisling and spy for Iraq during the war.

As such neither the alternative nor those who suggest it bear any significance and value to any sensible person.

Commentary Calls British MP Remarks 'Impudent'

NC2602193390 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Feb 90 p 2

[Hoseyn Qasemi commentary: "The British Have Lost Their Balance"]

[Text] Although the British are not modest, they have always pretended to be "modest in word." Moreover, they have always claimed that they never lose their temper and that it is this control which makes them superior in the field of diplomacy. However, the impudent and foolish remarks by the chairman of the British Parliament's foreign affairs committee, which apparently came in response to the assertion by our esteemed leadership that the historic decree [on Salman Rushdie] issued by his eminence the imam, may his grave be sanctified, remains in force, showed that the British have lost their balance and cast off their hypocritical mask.

One may study why the British have gone "so far" within the context of the hypothesis of our country's "need" for them and possibly their credits for our reconstruction. However, the doors of Eastern Europe have now opened to the West, a situation which the British are exploiting. This has diminished Britain's need for Iran's markets. Moreover, now that the new U.S. military strategy in the Persian Gulf for the nineties is based on the principle that more attention should be paid to the self-defense of so-called moderate countries and especially Saudi Arabia so that these countries can protect themselves from "foreign threats," Britain, as the accomplice of the United States, should also play its role in this and receive payment for being an accomplice. Thus, an atmosphere

of deteriorating relations with Iran will make the regional shaykhs pay more attention to and have more trust in the British.

Another hypothesis should also be taken into consideration, and this is the dashing of Britain's hopes that the aspirations of the Islamic revolution would be forgotten after the demise of the imam, may his grave be sanctified. This is because the emphasis by the worthy successor to Imam Khomeyni, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, that the imam's line will be continued until its objectives are fulfilled leaves no place for expectations that the imam's historic decree will be repealed or that our country's political and economic independence will be sacrificed for the sake of reconstruction.

Thus we come to the conclusion that if we completely rule out the first hypothesis, then we will see that what has so enraged the British and made them lose their temper is the fact that Islamic Iran continues to insist on the ideals of its Islamic revolution even after the imam, may his soul be sanctified. Moreover, in answer to those who have described Britain's recent stand as the natural outcome of its political defeat and, ultimately, as an indication of the adoption of a policy of threat against us, we say that, assuming that this view is correct, was there any need for the British to go so far in their impudence as the chairman of their Parliament's foreign affairs committee did?

Now that the British have lost their balance because of their rage, our officials should postpone reestablishing relations with them. In addition to making such a reestablishment of relations contingent on their acceptance of the Majles' condition that they apologize to the Muslims of the world and condemn the blasphemous "The Satanic Verses," our officials should wait until these bigots regain their balance and come to their senses. Naturally, our officials will enjoy the support of our good people who showed, with their glorious marches yesterday, that they reaffirm their allegiance to the late imam and our leader.

If we fail to do this, then the British, who showed the extent of their hostility against us by expelling nine Iranians from Britain, will become more impudent.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Urges Muslims To Unite

LD2402094890 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24, IRNA—The seventh international competitions on Quran recitation and memorisation was inaugurated here Friday [23 February] by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the anniversary of the appointment of Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him] as prophet.

In his inaugural speech President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that support of the Western governments and media for Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel, "The Satanic Verses", was provoked by Iran's support for the Holy Quran and Islam. Further in his address to the contenders from 40 countries the president said that the Muslim nations instead of rallying around the Holy Quran which invites them to unite, are disunited.

As a result of this disunity, what Muslims get from the recent changes in the Soviet Union is occupation of their homes in occupied Palestine by immigrant Soviet Jews, said the president referring to immigration of Soviet Jews, to Israel and their settlement in homes of Muslims and Arabs.

Turning to the potential power of the Islamic countries, he said that the Persian Gulf countries could employ their oil and gas as a weapon to eliminate the Zionist regime.

The opening session of the competitions which is to last for five days was also attended by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojatt ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami and a number of government officials. Some 40 Iranians will be competing against foreign participants.

Meanwhile a 2-day research conference on concepts of the Holy Quran ended in the holy city of Qom on Friday by issuing a resolution.

The participants of the conference pledged support for the death decree issued last year by the late leader of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni against Salman Rushdie. It also condemned the inhuman attitude of superpowers towards Muslims in this connection.

The participants also expressed sympathy with the Muslims in Soviet Azerbaijan, Tadjikistan, Kashmir and Palestine who have sustained casualties in achieving their rights and supporting Islam.

Radio Criticizes Amman ACC Summit Statement

NC2502195790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1755 GMT 25 Feb 90

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Text] The most salient remark in the statement released by the regimes of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] refers to inaction to confront the emigration of Soviet Jews. Despite the fact that this issue was of priority, according to a statement by Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, the final statement, and prior to it, the speeches delivered by the Egyptian and Iraqi presidents and Jordan's king, were content with reiterating flowery phrases lacking substance and marked by an appealing character. The statement appealed to the international powers who support the Jewish entity and to the Soviet Union and the United States to shoulder their responsbilities in halting the emigration. The statement also underlined the dangers that this emigration poses to the entire Arab order and Arab national security. The statement was content to express pride with the Palestinian people's heroic struggle.

Observers believe that since its establishment, the Arab political order, along with the Arab League and the Arab summit conferences, have constantly released similar statements. The Arab order's problem lies in its verbal character and enthusiastic oratory that lack efficacy. Thus, we can say that King Husayn, who is very worried by the Jewish emigration, only reaped political orations that appeal to Washington and Moscow to act to limit emigration. The statement, however, did not mention what Jordan's partner in the ACC would do to confront this challenge. Needless to say, the reasons are well known: Arab arms and funds are not earmarked to support the Palestinian people's intifadah so that they may confront or limit Jewish emigration. Also, Arab arms are not directed against the Zionist entity, because all are convinced that they should reconcile and coexist peacefully with this entity.

It is important to the ACC, however, to support the Iraqi regime's policies in confronting the Islamic Republic. The sole contradiction for the entire Arab political order is the Islamic surge [al-halah al-islamiyah], which the Islamic Republic represents as its center. The ACC regimes' statement reiterated previous instigatory and provocative stances that threaten peace and security in the Gulf region, when it raised the alleged rights of the Saddam Husayn's regime in Shatt al-'Arab. In fact, these are a cover to encourage the Saddam regime to avert implementing UN Resolution 598. The claim about concern for peace is merely a cover for their real stands that reject peace. These calls not only fail to serve peace and security in the region, but are attempts to divert attention from the serious defiance that confronts the Muslims and Arabs represented in the Zionist-Western danger. This is precisely the subversive role of the subservient regimes that are seeking to reconcile with the Jews and devote themselves to fight Islam and Muslims.

Commentary on Arab Cooperation Council Meeting

LD2502160690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1054 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Greetings, dear listeners. The heads of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], following their one-day meeting in Amman, signed 11 agreements last night and repeated their old statements on a number of regional problems.

In the meeting, chaired by the shah of Jordan, the heads of the member countries, Iraq, North Yemen, and Egypt made remarks on the future of regional peace and the Iraqi war against Iran.

On the imposed war, Husni Mubarak, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and shah Husayn expressed their support for Saddam's peace plan, which was announced a while ago, and stressed Iraq's historical rights, as it were, over the Arvand River.

A while ago, Saddam, the head of the Iraqi regime, offered a plan containing no new points and put forward his regime's previous requests in a collective form. But since those requests were contradictory to the contents of Resolution 598 and the secretary general's plans and initiatives, they were immediately rejected by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The secretary general, after reviewing the plan, took a similar position and announced his disagreement with it. [passage omitted]

Many believe that from the beginning of the imposed war, the efforts of Egypt, Jordan, and North Yemen in helping the Iraqi Ba'th regime and supporting the Iraqi position practically laid the foundations for setting up the ACC. It therefore is natural for the Council to take such positions and endorse their hostile policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Although in the early days of the ACC the aim of the members was claimed to be formation of an economic council, as a result of the member countries' unstable economies and the regimes of Egypt and Iraq being among those in the region with the biggest debts, the council could not distance itself from its political nature and, despite four meetings of the heads of that council, so far it has not been able to attain any economic achievements. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi Ba'th regime, after being kept away from the political arena of the Middle East because of its eight-year war with the Islamic Republic of Iran, once more had taken advantage of the opportunity and tried to enter regional politics. Although at the start it seemed the Iraqi regime was successful in its aim, the emergence of a number of problems inside the Council made the continuation of that success doubtful.

The expulsion of more than 1 million Egyptian workers from Iraq, which still goes on, has threatened Egypt-Iraq relations and put pressure on the regime of Husni Mubarak. In Egypt, the press has criticized the Iraqi regime and called on the Egyptian regime to act immediately on the violation of the rights of Egyptian workers in Iraq. On the other hand, the resumption of ties between Egypt and Syria also has brought satisfaction to the Iraqi regime and created some uncertainties for the future of Baghdad-Cairo relations. This is particularly so since, after the end of the imposed war, the Iraqi regime has done its best to confront Damascus policies and, at present, the Egyptian regime cannot support the Iraqi regime, as in the past, because of its newly-formed relations with Syria.

The sum total of those developments, together with the failure of the ACC in creating an appropriate form of economic cooperation, has resulted in a situation whereby we are witnessing a considerably more tenuous and impotent alliance than appeared at the start of its formation.

Editorial on French, Iraqi Involvement in Lebanon

NC1602163190 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Beirut Fighting Has Its Roots in Paris and Baghdad"]

[Text] Once again political bankruptcy of the power-thirsty war lords got loose and found expression in the clattering of machine guns in East Beirut. The two Maronite factions broke their fragile truce and their blind rage has already left over 1500 killed or injured since the fighting broke out last Wednesday.

So far no mediation has been successful to effect a ceasefire between forces loyal to the rebellious deposed Army commander Gen. Michel 'Awn and the militia of the Phalangist leader Samir Ja'ja. There has been only a lull in which, as the parties have openly said, they take rest and reorganize their forces.

This round of bloody confrontation between the two Christian factions in Beirut began when 'Awn's forces tried to disarm Ja'ja's militia last Wednesday.

'Awn's attack on his own natural ally marks the deposed general's overstretched ambitions and desire for monopoly of power with no regard for the cost human or political it may incur. It should not be forgotten that Phalangist forces had so far been one of the main pillars of the Christian military clout in Lebanon's civil war. Seemingly the general's unquenched thirst for power has got out of bounds to the extent that it is drawing harsh criticisms from many corners. The U.S. envoy in Damascus, for instance, has openly named 'Awn as the responsible party in this round of fighting in the war-torn city and is asking for his ouster from the nation's political scene.

Aside from the American view of the Beirut fighting, it is certain that in Lebanon no faction can involve itself in any war, large scale or small, without foreign backing. 'Awn's adventurism in Lebanon is not only an exception but is indeed a very good example of imperialist powers' habit of poking their noses in Lebanese affairs through proxy armed agents.

For a fact at present 'Awn and his forces are able to operate by mustering support from an alliance of France and Iraq.

If ever Washington is after seeing the rebellious general bow out of Lebanese politics, it should set the scene for his ouster not by merely communiques or through its Lebanon ambassador's press conferences. It should direct attention at Paris and Baghdad, the two main sources of all kinds of support for the general.

'Awn's personal caliber and traits have clearly shown that he is alien to diplomatic language and incapable of understanding anything other than what emanates from the barrel of a gun. In fact he engaged himself in this round of fighting against his own erstwhile Phalange allies thinking he would knock them out of existence in the very first days.

Now the general has no alternative other than continuing the bloodshed in order to remain on the scene. And those who are just as opposed to these blind conflicts can do more than simply indulge in idle talk if they genuinely desire an end to them.

*Paper Comments on Demonstrations Against Regime

90OI0177A London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[Text] Following the cancellation of three soccer games at Amjadiyyeh Stadium and 100,000-seat gymnasium, the crowds which had gathered on this sunny Friday to watch these games in the two athletic stadiums engaged in angry demonstrations against the regime of the Islamic Republic outside the closed doors of the stadium.

The anti-regime demonstrations began behind the closed doors of Amjadiyyeh Stadium. The angry mob first attacked the athletic buildings of the stadium, broke the doors and windows, and entered the boxing hall, which is located in the southwest corner of Amjadiyyeh. They took the large portraits of Khomeyni and Khamene'i into the street, threw them on the ground, and tore them to shreds.

This expression of discontent on the part the people arose because of the cancellation of the soccer game on the afternoon of Friday this week (27 Bahman [16 February]) at Amjadiyyeh Stadium and turned into a very large demonstration against the regime of the Islamic Republic.

According to an eyewitness, after tearing up the pictures of Khomeyni and Khamene'i, the crowd attacked the buses of the Vahed bus company of Tehran, smashing bus windows. The branch of the Workers Welfare Bank [Bank-e Refah-e Kargaran] in that area was also the target of the angry people.

The dispatch of the riot police unit, which is said to include a large number of young Afghan refugees, resulted in violent clashes between demonstrators and the forces of the regime. But because of the large number of people in the crowd, the regime's forces were unable to prevent the demonstrations. Consequently, the demonstrations spread from Amjadiyyeh Stadium to Takht-e Tavus Street on the one side and towards the center of the city to Shahabad Street on the other.

According to the same eyewitness, the demonstrators shouted slogans of "Death to Khamene'i" and "Death to the Islamic Republic," expressing their opposition to the regime. The above-mentioned eyewitness said that in the clashes between the regime's forces and the people, a large number of people from both sides were injured, and the Guards arrested hundreds of people. He said

that in the streets surrounding Amjadiyyeh Stadium, because of the large number of people, no guard dared shoot at the people, and if a shot was fired, it was on or around Shahabad Street. There has been no confirmation from any source concerning shots fired at the people.

Another eyewitness said in a telephone conversation from Tehran that the demonstrations were much more widespread than the Persian-language radios abroad have reported and which have been monitored in Iran. This source said that he personally witnessed the demonstrations in Fowziyeh Square. He added that on Saturday and Sunday as well, the people went into the streets cautiously and many employees did not go to work.

French News Agency: Slogans in Support of Reza Pahlavi

The French news agency announced in its report of the Friday demonstrations in Tehran: "Thousands of soccer fans who had assembled in the two stadiums in Tehran, using the cancellation of the games as an excuse, engaged in demonstrations and shouted anti-regime slogans." The French news agency, quoting eyewitnesses, writes that in the clashes between the government agents, including the Guards Corps, and the people, at least 10 people were injured. The same news agency writes: "The young participants in the demonstrations shouted anti-government slogans in support of Reza Pahlavi and demanded his return to Iran." The same news agency added that at Amjadiyyeh Stadium, the soccer spectators broke windows and attacked telephone booths and shops. However, the demonstrations in Azadi Square were less violent than those around Amjadiyyeh Stadium.

The Slogans Were Against the Soccer Federation Director

IRNA's office in London said to KEYHAN that in the Amjadiyyeh Stadium events no anti-government slogans were shouted, and the slogans were against the director of the soccer federation. An employee of that office emphasized that the people who had gone to watch the soccer game attacked people's cars and houses with rocks and caused some damage.

He emphasized that the law-enforcement agents arrested 30 rioters, most of whom were freed after a short time. He said: The game which was supposed to have taken place at Amjadiyyeh Stadium was cancelled because of the unfavorable condition of the field, with 20 centimeters of water remaining from the rain of the previous day. Also, the cancellation of the game had been announced over radio and television.

The official in charge of the IRNA office in London responded in regard to the slogans in support of Reza Pahlavi reported by the French news agency by asking: Would anyone dare shout such slogans in Tehran?

The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization: Slogans in Support of Rajavi

Issuing communiques, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization claimed that the demonstrators on Friday shouted slogans of "Death to Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani" and "Greetings to Mas'ud Rajavi." The above-mentioned organization announced that the law-enforcement unitsof the regime which have taken positions in the sensitive areas of Tehran since Friday evening still remain in position to counter any possible demonstrators.

The communiqueof the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization states that thedemonstrations continued until 6 AM the next day and spread to Takht-e Jamshid and Roosevelt Streets and Fowziyeh Square.

How the Demonstrations Began

On Friday, 27 Bahman [16 February], three soccer games were scheduled to be played in the two large stadiums in Tehran, two of which were quite important.

At Amjadiyyeh "Shirudi" Stadium, Esteqlal "Taj", and Pas teams were scheduled to play. At the 100,000-seat gymnasium, a game was scheduled between Piruzi "Persepolis" and the Gendarmerie teams and another between the Railroad and Shahid Foundation teams.

A win by the Estqlal "Taj" team at Amjadiyyeh Stadium would have had a direct effect on the championship of the Tehranclubs.

According to reports from reliable sources, and also according to Tehran newspapers, between 40,000 and 50,000 people of Tehran and other cities had come to Amjadiyyeh to watch the Friday afternoon game between Esteqlal "Taj" and Pas, and the streets around Amjadiyyeh were full of people. But the Amjadiyyeh Square officials would not open the stadium gates to the people because thegame had been postponed to another date, and no gamewas scheduled on that day.

According to ABRAR newspaper, the soccer federation had not informed the Tehran soccer board of the postponement, and the radio and television had not announced the cancellation either. Hence, the people had come to the stdium on a pleasant sunny day.

The gathering of several thousand people in front of the closed doors of Amjadiyyeh Stadium was the right opportunity for the people to express their discontent concerning the whole regime. A speech by one of the officials of the Tehran soccer board had no effect on the crowd, as it attacked the Amjadiyyeh facilities, the buses, and the streets.

The ABRAR report indicates that the condition of the Amjadiyyeh field was not as bad as it is said to have been.

ABRAR writes:

"What would have happened if the game had taken place? Might some player have fallen and lost the ball? Might the ball have become covered with mud and a player's leg been broken? Do these and similar reasons justify cancellation of games that were to be watched by about 100,000 spectators?"

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI called the spectators of the soccer games at Amjadiyyeh Stadium "a bunch of hoodlums posing as sports enthusiasts" who took advantage of the opportunity to start a riot.

The last reports from Tehran indicate that on Saturday and Sunday as well, scattered demonstrations at intersections and in various areas of Tehran continued, and the situation has not yet returned to normal.

At the 100,000-Seat Stadium

Both games at the 100,000-seat stadium were postponed, the excuse being the unfavorable condition of the field. Of those who had gone to the stadium, some 60,000 to 70,000 spectators also engaged in demonstrations around the stadium. On their return to Tehran, they gathered on 24-Esfand Square, shouting slogans against the regime. The 24-Esfand Square demonstrations were not very widespread.

*Message From Shah's Son Reported

90OI0177B London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Yesterday, large, brave demonstrations of thousands of our combative compatriots in Tehran showed the people of the world that no desperate effort will save the hated regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the wrath of the nation. These demonstrations start a new chapter in the continuing 11-year resistance of the Iranian people against the usurpers of their rights and show their readiness and invariable determination to free themselves from the deadly dictatorship of the regime. With slogans of "Death to Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani," the people of Tehran proved to the world that from their point of view, all the leaders, factions, and gangs of the Islamic Republic share equally in the 11 years of crime and have no other choice but to submit to the suppressed demands of you, the nation.

Fully aware of the patriotic sentiments of the alert and combative people of Iran, I greet all the women and men who have risen bravely to achieve freedom and are not afraid of any obstacle.

I am certain that the Iranian people will not sit still to retrieve their rights and take over their destiny, and I am determined to employ all my resources and capabilities to bring the nation to ultimate victory.

[Dated] 28 Bahman 1368 [17 February 1990]

11 Reportedly Killed in Esfahan Protests

TA2802180790 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] On Sunday, 25 February, the citizens of Esfahan staged huge demonstrations in the city's streets against the Islamic Republic. During these demonstrations some of the regime's guards fired on the people. Reportedly 11 demonstrators were killed and scores of others were wounded in the attack by the Islamic Guards.

Militant Clergy Association Issues Statement

NC1602215790 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Feb 90 p 3

["Text" of statement issued by the Tehran Militant Clergy Association on "the eve of the Ten Days of Dawn"]

[Text] In the name of the Almighty. The auspicious day of 11 February reminds us of the victory of the spectacular revolution of a nation which overthrew corruption and cast the 2,500-years of monarchy onto the trash heap of history, thus propounding a new plan to a world filled by corruption and evil. This nation did this by relying on God Almighty and by shedding sacred blood under the wise leadership of the great leader of Islam, His Eminence Imam Kho meyni, may his grave be sanctified.

Iran's bloody revolution showed that dear Islam was a dynamic and glorifying school of thought in the world and that Islam replaced non-values imported from the West with traditional human values. It broke the political, cultural, and economic chains and gave the Iranian nation the great boon of independence and freedom from the satanic domination of the colonialists and their minions. It ended, once and for all, the power and diktat of world arrogance led by world-devouring America. It upset the international calculations by politicians in the East and the West, and it injected joyful and hopeful life into the dead bodies of the oppressed of the world.

The 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution is being marked at a time when our dear imam and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not among us and when the Islamic ummah continues to mourn the heart-rending demise of its leader. But as the esteemed leader (may his shadow be extended) has stated: "Even though the imam is not here this year, his God, his path, and his directives are here. The valuable words, and the political-divine testament of that great teacher and divine brave man will always shine brightly over the Islamic ummah and the noble people of the world."

We are marking the great anniversary of 11 February as a raging wave of Islamic movements and fights against colonialism and despotism has gone beyond the borders of Iran and is expanding so much more each day that the leaders of world arrogance and of big powers are unable to harness it. The cry of unification can be heard in all parts of the world. The brave children of Islam in Jammu

and Kashmir, in Soviet Azerbaijan, in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestine, and other parts of the world are creating epics with the bloody slogan of "God is great" and are resisting the crimes and cruelties of tyrannical rules.

We are at a juncture where Marxist anti-God systems are crumbling one after the other and where the defeat of man-made schools of thought and the impotence of distorted religions are becoming more and more obvious every day. This is a time when the revealing forecasts by the imam (may God elevate his status) on the fact that atheistic views would reach an impasse and that man would realize the need to return to himself are being fulfilled.

Under such conditions it is necessary for the brave Iranian nation—which has proven its capability to lead the revolution and the resistance against the various plots by the enemies of Islam, and which is an example for the oppressed people of the world to follow—to have a greater sense of responsibility. The nation must also know that at this sensitive moment we need unity of word and solidarity with and full obedience to the guardian of the cause of the Muslims more than ever before. It should know that we should seriously refrain from any action that might weaken the system and not utter any remark that might spread discord. Everyone should, through solidarity with the esteemed government and the hard-working officials, cooperate in the country's construction and in overcoming existing problems. We should also give the attention necessary to the problems of other Islamic societies and of people who thirst for truth and who are the oppressed of the world.

The more spectacularly and extensively the anniversary of the victory of the revolution in the center of Islam is marked, the more it will manifest the people's devotion to the revolution, to the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult as the main pillar of the system, and to the other lofty values and principles of pure Mohammadan Islam. It will manifest the Iranian people's firm determination to continue on and to implement their imam's path, goals, and ideas.

The Tehran Militant Clergy Association congratulates the imam of the ages (may God expedite his reappearance), the esteemed leadership (may God extend his shadow), all the dear compatriots, and all the Muslims and oppressed of the world. It calls on the noble and alert people who are always present on the scene to zealously participate in the great march to mark the auspicious 11 February anniversary. They will thus renew their allegiance to their late leader and dear imam and the sacred aspirations of that great man; commemorate the great martyrs of the revolution; laud the dear disabled, the noble prisoners of war, and the valuable people who are missing in action; pay their respects to the families of these people; renew their allegiance to the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult and the esteemed and dear leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God extend his shadow over the Muslims; and express their support for the hard-working government of His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, may he be blessed. In this way they will prove to the world that with the help of God, they will be the ones to continue on the path of the imam and the guardians of the blood shed by the martyrs until the final victory of Islam over world blasphemy.

You who believe: If you will aid the cause of God, He will aid you and plant your feet firmly.
[Signed] The Tehran Militant Clergy Association

*Report on Proceedings of 16 Jan Majles Session

90OI0149A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
17 Jan 90 pp 5, 9, 3

[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, Mr. Taheri-Musavi, Shadegan deputy, spoke as the pre-agenda speaker. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent reports that the first item on the agenda was the proposed law on the implementation procedure for principles 85 and 138 of the Constitution with regard to the responsibilities of the Majles speaker (returned from the Council of Guardians), which was approved.

The second item on the agenda was the amendment to the Justice Law for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran enacted 2/22/64 [12 May 1985] (returned from the Council of Guardians), which was approved by the deputies.

The next item on the agenda was the Permanent Salary and Benefits Bill, Fixed Savings, Insurance and Medical Insurance for Eligible Parties to the Army Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 14 articles of which were approved by the deputies.

The final item on the agenda was Mr. Reza 'Abdollahi's question of the minister of roads and transport, for which the minister's answer was not satisfactory and which was referred to the Question Investigation Commission.

Printed below are Mr. Taheri-Musavi's remarks and the detailed proceedings.

Taheri-Musavi, Representative of the People of Shadegan

The only pre-agenda speaker for yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Seyyed 'Abdolsaheb Taheri-Musavi from the Shadegan electoral district.

While offering praises to the pure soul of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (May God Have Mercy on Him), and congratulations on the birthday of the great and pious Fatemeh Zahrah (Peace Be upon Her), he wished a long life for the great Islamic leader, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. He said: Today's world of humanity, with a heart full of pain, is witnessing bitter and unsavory events. The specter of the law of the jungle and the domination of power and force over the oppressed world, such as the savage attack by the aggressor America against Panama, the oppression of the usurper Zionists of the oppressed and tormented nation of Palestine, Michel 'Awn's imposed and illegal government of the oppressed people of Lebanon, the insistence by the Ba'th regime of Iraq on its false and incorrect positions, and the alignment by the reactionary governments with that filthy and illegitimate government and the dominance of the Saudi family, the children of England trained by America, over the noble shrines of Islam and hundreds of similar examples have broken the hearts of humanity and are painful emotionally to every free human being. The most astonishing and disastrous of these calamities is the claims of these very irresponsible bullies who consider themselves the defenders of human rights and democracy.

He added: On the other hand, today we are witnessing the awakening of the Muslims and deprived people of the world. Evidently humanity is returning to its human essence and finding the part of itself it has lost. What is our duty now in the face of these two phenomena? Fortunately the dear imam, who was the glory of the Islam of Mohammad, studied all these affairs in the best way and gave his decisive and necessary orders, and it is appropriate that we mention them here.

The first principle is unity of speech.

Our experience to date has shown that wherever there has been unity and solidarity, success and joy reigned, and wherever there has been factionalism and oppression, it has led to the disgrace of the nation. The respected deputies and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran must know that unity is pleasing to God, the great Prophet of Islam, the guided imams, and the victorious spirit of this late leader, and it will bring us glory, honor, and majesty. The alternative is disunity, which is disturbing to God, the Prophet of God, and the sacred soul of the imam and a joy to the enemies of Islam and Iran. We are here now and we must decide and choose the path we want to take. Of course there is no doubt that we will take the first path.

I think we must first begin with the Majles, which is at the head of affairs and we must banish these petty differences of opinion from our midst, because I do not think there is so much factional discord that it cannot be eliminated. Both factions suffered from the shah's oppression, both were banished and imprisoned during the wretched Pahlavi period, both have distinguished records of struggle against the idolaters in various areas and even now, praise God, they are in the trenches of struggle against world imperialism and defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran like tall, solid mountains, and they are standing firmly in the ranks continuing the fight.

Is it right that we should accuse each other outside of religion, Islam, and the revolution? Can we accept the point that those who were appointed by the imam of the nation to the nation's key posts such as the Council of Guardians and the like follow an Americanized Islam? What literate and pious clergyman has defended hoarding, unlimited ownership, nest-feathering, and godless profiteering and supports this idea? On the other hand, is it possible that the people who were always validated by the imam of the nation could be considered in violation of traditional theology and the clergy? Most important of all, is it possible, in light of the imam of the nation's celestial statements, defending the leaders of both factions and saying they are on the path of Islam and the revolution, to express opposition? Of course I do not deny that there are differences of opinion and mistakes in both factions, and I therefore expect the leaders of both factions to exchange views in order to complement each other, rather than, God forbid, lining up in opposition to each other, and God willing this will not happen.

Continuing, Mr. Taheri-Musavi said: I consider it appropriate to ask the great and respected leaders and clergymen of the Majles to try to protect the sacred sanctuary of the clergy in the Majles and not to permit, God forbid, this sacred sanctuary to be insulted and belittled.

The second principle that the imam of the nation stressed and studied and presented in detail at the noble Najaf Seminary is the matter of the vice-regency of the chief theologian. The place of this principle in the government of Islam can be compared to the heart of a human being because Islam, without a vice-regent, is like a body without soul or spirit.

If the question of the vice-regency of the chief theologian was formerly raised as an academic discussion in the seminaries, praise God our society has now tasted its positive results. We have all observed that if the vice-regency of the chief theologian had not ruled in this country the situation of the nation and Islam could have gone anywhere and our society and revolution could have ended in collapse. The dear and great nation of Iran witnesses the revitalizing breath of that great leader (may his grave be sanctified) in the proclamations, comments, actions, and pauses of the vice-regent of the Muslims, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his life be long. It is now the duty of all the noble and combative people of Iran and other Muslims of the world to follow the great leader, for negligence in this important and vital matter is treason against Islam and the revolution, and God willing we will never be confronted with that.

The speaker then discussed the bureaucracy and undue influence in the administrative offices, and he called upon the respected president to take a special look at this important matter.

Concerning the problems in Khuzestan, the Shadegan deputy said: I have many things to say, but in the interest of the nation and the government, I will refrain from discussing them in the sacred forum of the Majles. I will mention that Khuzestan is the heart of Iran, and it is incumbent upon all of us to look after this heart. Khuzestan has seen and continues to see war, floods, and other problems. I therefore ask the respected Majles and the executive officials to attend to the problems of this province as soon as possible and solve them.

Details of the Proceedings

The first item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was the proposed law on the implementation procedure for principles 85 and 138 of the Constitution with regard to the responsibilities of the Majles speaker (returned from the Council of Guardians).

Commission Amendment for Council of Guardians Approval

Article One and its notes were amended as follows:

Article One: The Majles speaker will be notified of the approval of government letters and guidelines and the enactments of the commissions mentioned in Principle 138 and the enactments mentioned in Principle 85 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. If the speaker of the Majles deems the item unlawful, he will submit his opinion with the reason to the government. If some or all of these enactments are deemed unlawful, as required the Council of Ministers, the appropriate minister, or the appropriate commission must, within one week of the announcement of the Majles speaker's opinion, amend the enactment and then order an immediate stop to its implementation.

Note One: The Council of Ministers and the commissions mentioned in Principle 138 of the Constitution must, in addition to sending the text of the enactment and its documentation on the request of the speaker, make available to him the proceedings, text and data from the deliberations of the Council of Ministers and the appropriate commissions in the shortest time possible.

Note Two: If differences of opinion arise between the Majles speaker and the Council of Ministers or the relevant commissions concerning interpretation of the laws, the Majles speaker's view will prevail.

Concerning this amendment, Mr. Majid Ansari spoke in opposition and Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji spoke in support. Then a vote was taken and it was approved.

Second Agenda Item

The second agenda item was the amendment to the Justice Law for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran enacted 2/22/64 [12 May 1985] (returned from the Council of Guardians).

Article 10 was amended as follows:

Article 10: The chief of the Armed Forces Judicial Organization, who is also head of Branch One of Central Military Court One, has the right to supervise and investigate the military courts and tribunals throughout the country, and he may have as many deputies as necessary.

After a vote, the above amendment was approved by the deputies.

Third Agenda Item

The third item on the agenda was the report from the Defense Affairs Commission to the Majles concerning the Permanent Salary and Benefits Bill, Fixed Savings, Insurance and Medical Insurance for Eligible Parties of the Army Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the 14 articles of which were studied and approved after the deputys' proposals and amendments.

The text of the approved articles is as follows:

Article One: The determining factors for the monthly salary of Eligible Parties of the Army Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran enacted 7/7/1366 [29 September 1987] (mentioned in Articles 131 and 138 of the aforementioned law) are set as follows: A. Minimum Salary 300 units B. Commission Unit two units C. Promotion Wage Unit 12 units D. Base Wage Unit 18 units

Note One: The rial coefficient of the units designated in this article is always equivalent to the rial coefficient of those eligible for the National Employment Law.

Note Two: In all cases where there are changes in the system of payments or the salary figures for those covered under the National Employment Law, in accordance with Article 136 of the Army Law, the wage factors given in this law will change at the same time and to the same extent. All regulations changing the salaries of those covered under the National Employment Law must include changes in the factors mentioned in this article.

Note Three: Once a year, the officials mentioned in Article 78 of the Army Law may give one-time-only one-unit bonus wage increases to one percent of the best and most worthy of the specialist personnel in the relevant forces and organizations with at least 25 years service. The aforementioned wage increases are solely calculated for the entire period of service and are to be removed after the termination of service. The coordinated executive guidelines for this note will be prepared for the joint staff with the cooperation of the relevant forces and organizations and will be approved by the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Article Two: Students who work prior to completion of their degrees will be paid a monthly salary equal to one-half of the wages obtained from the factors given in Article One and based on the wage level set for the degree that is the basis of employment, and their acceptable years of study will be designated and paid.

Note: Students receiving on-the-job training in aviation, maritime skills, mobile and airborne mobilization will be paid up to 50 percent, according to the case, of the benefits paid in that employment during their on-the-job training, in accordance with the regulations given in the executive guidelines for Article 139 of the Army Law.

Article Three: The first salary grade in view of Article 131 of the Army Law for personnel hired at the entry level based on studies below the level of the completed program of study will be set at grade one, and with the needed acceptable higher academic credentials the salary grades will be set as follows: A. Completed elementary school (new and old), 3 B. Completed junior high school or the first intermediate cycle, 6 C. Admission to the fourth intermediate level (former), 7 D. Admission to the fifth intermediate level (former), 8 E. High School Diploma, 9 F. Completion of post-high school training, former officer and flight training programs, first cycle of the college of military sciences, or other equivalent levels of training, 11 G. Completed undergraduate programs and the former officers and service colleges, second cycle of the college of military sciences or other equivalent training, 13 H. Completion of graduate training and doctorates in medical fields other than general medicine, 15 I. General medicine doctors and doctors in other general fields, 16

Note One: The first salary grade for those with doctoral academic credentials will be three and four units higher depending on the case for all training programs completed and needed and accepted by the organization.

Note Two: In cases where the Ministry of Defense requires the periods of study mentioned in Note One and Paragraphs H and I because of the credentials validated by one of the institutions of higher education, medicine, health care, and medical training, in excess of the years calculated in the aforementioned paragraphs, the first relevant salary grade will be calculated based on Article 131 of the Army Law.

Note Three: The salary grade determination for years of education beyond the end of the middle school level will be based on Articles 69, 70, and 73 of the Army Law. For those with academic credentials higher than the end of the middle school level, this will be equal to the difference between their first salary grade and the first salary grade for credentials of completion of middle school.

Note Four: Academic credentials which, according to the case, are recognized by the Ministries of Education and Training, Higher Education, Health, Treatment, and Medical Education as being equivalent to one of the levels mentioned in this article will have equal value.

Note Five: The years of training at the beginning of employment for the previous three levels of official staff, like the military personnel, will be used in calculating their first salary grade, provided that this training does not lead to academic credentials. These years must not exceed the equivalent period of training as mentioned in the charter for comparable training for military personnel.

Note Six: For personnel who have changed level or status (mentioned in Article 188 of the Constitution), their first salary grade will be calculated in accordance with this article. The criterion for their final salary grade will be their highest academic and military training credentials, based on the last change in status.

Note Seven: For personnel who have been classified or will be classified in any one of the above stages of education, because of having artistic, physical education, or specialist credentials arising from former employment regulations in the armed forces or the regulations of the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization, the criterion for setting the salary grade will be that educational level.

Note Eight: Academic credentials for completing middle school and higher employment levels in the Army Law are needed and acceptable in every employment situation for the organization, and if the first salary grade for the credentials is more than the former first salary grade, the criteria for calculating the salary grade of those based on Article Seven of this law and other cases will be calculated in accordance with the credentials for the completion of middle school.

Article Four: The first grade and the first salary grade for the former technical staff classifications and the staff mentioned in Paragraph B, Article 31 of the Army Law, in view of Articles 74, 131, and 186 of the aforementioned law, will be designated as follows: A. Technical staff of Level Five or Rank One, Group One, 1 B. Technical staff of Level Four or Rank One, Group Two, or Rank One, Group One, 3 C. Technical staff of Level Three or Rank One, Group Two, Rank Two, Group Two, and Rank Three, Group One, 5 D. Technical staff of Level Two or Rank Two, Group Three, or Rank Three, Group Two, 6 E. Technical staff of Level One or Rank One, Group Two, 8

Note: If the first salary grade for the academic credentials of the staff mentioned is higher than the first grade of their position, figuring the increase arising from the academic credentials mentioned in Note One, Article 74 or the note in Article 186 of the Army Law, the personnel will have the first salary grade without the seniority rights given for the first academic credentials grade.

Article Five: For the personnel listed below, if, despite their having the necessary qualifications and competence, it is not possible to give them a higher rank or rating, they will be dealt with as indicated in Article 133 of the Army Law, applying the maximum level provided in Article Six of this law.

A. For military personnel covered by the Army Law who, because of not having academic credentials for completing the second year of the former intermediate school

or completing the guidance cycle, their final rank will be third lieutenant for years of service in excess of four years.

B. Personnel hired before the implementation of the Army Law (7/7/1367 [29 September 1988]) who began at a higher rank or grade than comparable personnel because of having the necessary and acceptable academic credentials and or having more on-the-job training, in relation to years of service in excess of four years after reaching their highest rank.

C. Personnel who have served at least one year after 30 years of service in the implementation of Note One, Article 110 or Article 111 of the Army Law, for years of service in excess of four years in the final rank.

Note One: Military personnel covered under the Army Law, with the exception of the personnel mentioned in this article, in the event that despite having the necessary qualifications and competence and having four years of service in the first lieutenant's rank cannot be promoted to captain, at the end of 29 years service their salary will be raised to that level.

Note Two: Graduates from the former officer and flight training schools and the first cycle of the college of military sciences, with the exception of the personnel mentioned in this article and personnel who have changed status or academic credentials in the course of service, in the event that despite having the necessary qualifications and competence and with no demotions because of punishments affecting promotion, it is not possible to give them the seventh salary grade, at the end of the 29th year of service they will be given the seventh salary grade increase.

Note Three: All personnel covered under this article and the above notes, in the event they do not for whatever reason reach the next rank, as of this date to the same extent, instead of the above salary increases, they will receive a salary increase to the next salary grade.

Article Six: With the exception of personnel who have reached or will reach the level of brigadier general or higher and personnel who, after the enactment of the Army Law, reached or will reach bonus or temporary ranks or grades, or bonus salary increases, the maximum number of promotions in grade will not exceed seven.

Note One: Concerning the number of promotions for military personnel under the Army Law who were promoted on the basis of years of service during the period of the law's implementation, after deducting the period of service in the promoted rank and the years prior to that, the status given in the Army Law application table (row one, column two) for years of services will be acceptable for their promotions based on every four years of service in this status to arrive at the acceptable figure for calculation.

Note Two: For personnel who were covered under the note of Article 188 of the Army Law at the time of implementation, in the calculation of their promotion salary concerning the date of implementation and the number of promotions, the conditions that led to the designation of their rank or grade will be used, in light of the maximum number of promotions given in this article.

Article Seven: For personnel who present needed and acceptable academic credentials that are higher than the ones accepted from them previously, the number of promotions for them to designate merit pay and promotion pay will be calculated as follows:

A. New promotions. The figure to obtain the coefficient for the new promotion is obtained by dividing the first salary grade from the previous academic credentials into the first salary grade for the new academic credentials.

If the academic credentials are two grades higher than the first grade, the coefficient for the new promotion is obtained by dividing the period of acceptable service in months by the personnel in the grade of the old academic credentials into the minimum period of service required for promotion to the next grade or rank in months, and if the submission of the new credentials leads to a change in rank or grade, as of the date of the next promotion, this fraction will be subtracted from the total new promotions remaining.

Note One: The total promotion coefficient to two decimal places and with the ratio mentioned in Paragraph B of this article can be calculated to a maximum of 0.98, and the salary obtained will be paid with the decimal places dropped.

Note Two: Personnel who submitted academic credentials higher than those needed and acceptable to the organization before the Army Law was implemented, if not covered under Article 188 of the Army Law by submitting these credentials, are covered under this article in view of their rank or grade, length of service, and the promotion applied at the time the academic credentials were submitted.

Article Eight: Personnel whose salaries decrease with the implementation of this law in comparison with their total wages and benefits before the implementation of this law, will be paid the difference as the difference in the application of previous permanent bonus pay. This difference will be decreased to the same extent as the increase with any future pay increases.

Note: Any kind of salary increase implemented after the date of the implementation of the Army Law (7/7/1366 [29 September 1987]) under the authority of Note Two Article 32 and Article 34 of the Non-military Army Staff Employment Guidelines will not be used in designating the total wages and permanent bonus pay in the implementation of this law.

Article Nine - The monthly wages and implementation ranks for personnel who were hired as permanent or contract employees under the employment regulations prior to the Army Law as soldiers, seamen, volunteers,

gend›rmes, third-class guards, corporals, or navy corporals and are not covered under the regulations of Note Six, Article 204 of the Army Law will be set at the levels given in the table below based on the factors mentioned in Article One of this law and the appropriate rank and salary will be established.

Row	Former Title	Implementation Rank	Salary Grade
1	Volunteer Soldier or Seaman, Gendarme, Third-class Guard	Soldier or Seaman	1
2		Second-class Soldier or Seaman	2
3	First-class Soldier or First-class Seaman Volunteer, First-class Gendarme and Second-class guard	First-class Soldier or First-class Seaman	3
4	Corporal or Navy Corporal Volunteer, First-class Guard	Corporal or Navy Corporal	4

Note One. The salary grade of the personnel in row four in the above table is raised to five in case of martyrdom or combat service.

Note Two: The provisions of this article apply only to personnel hired before the enactment of the Army Law, and new hiring at these levels as permanent or contract cadre is prohibited.

Note Three: The minimum waiting period to reach the next rank for personnel in rows one and two is six months, one year for row three, and four years for subsequent ranks (to a maximum rank of first sergeant).

Note Four: The salary grade for personnel beginning service under the titles given in the above table and reaching the level of third sergeant, third mate, third guardsman and above having academic credentials for completion of elementary school or higher, are not covered by the regulations of this article.

Article Ten: Staff who were hired before the enactment of the Army Law and after the triumph of the Islamic revolution and have achieved the first bonus grade in accordance with the regulation will have one wage unit added to their salary for each bonus grade.

Note: If the bonus grade of staff is given in a case mentioned in the guidelines issued in connection with seniority, whether given in time of war or peace, the corresponding period will be treated as military seniority.

Article 11: In calculating the base wage for personnel, the years of on-the-job training as well as the years of service in excess of 30 years will be calculated, but only a maximum of 30 years of the service mentioned in Article 154 of the Army Law will be calculated.

Note: Concerning personnel with more than 30 years service, retirement deductions will only be taken from their wages during the service of this period.

Article 12: The monthly salary for personnel covered under this law in the year of its enactment will be procured and paid from the total credit allocated in Article One and Article Two to the extent of the former permanent bonus pay in the budgets allocated by the relevant organizations and the credits provided for this purpose.

Article 13: The factors determining retirement pensions, wages, and benefits for those whose services ended before 7/7/1366 [29 September 1987] will be set based on the regulations in the Army Law in the following way:

A. Their first salary grade will be as follows in view of the final academic credentials for the period of their service at various stages of employment:

1-Lacking credentials for completing elementary school, 1
2-Completed elementary school, 2
3-Completed elementary school and first intermediate cycle, 6
4-Higher than first intermediate cycle, lower than middle school (only if this is the basis for employment), 8
5-Completed middle school, 9
6-High school diploma, 11
7-Bachelor's degree, 13
8-Master's degree, 15
9-Associated doctoral degree, except general physicians, 15
10-General physician and non-associated doctoral degree, 16
11-Doctoral degree with specialist credentials and higher, 17

Note One: Academic credentials higher than completed middle school will be accepted if they are recognized as needed and acceptable by the organization.

Note Two: The first salary grade for technical staff, personnel of equal rank, as well as personnel lacking academic credentials will be determined as follows:

1- The five levels of technical staff and personnel of equal rank on the basis of the provisions of Article Four of this law.
2-Non-commissioned officers, 2
3-Officers (with academic credentials lower than completed middle school), 6

Note Three: Military personnel covered by this article who have completed the following military training will have the following figures added to their first academic credentials salary grade:

1-Non-commissioned and commissioned officers who have completed training at corporal training sites, non-commissioned or commissioned officers'

training or equivalent training whose highest academic credentials are lower than completed middle school, one unit.

2-Officers who have completed officer training or the equivalent within one year and whose highest academic credentials are not higher than completed middle school, one unit.

3-Pilots and officers who have completed officer training or the equivalent in two years and whose highest academic credentials are higher than completed middle school, two units.

4-Officers who have completed officer's college or equivalent training and whose highest academic credentials are lower than a bachelor's degree, three units, for those with a high school diploma, the first salary grade for completed middle school is provided.

B: The acceptable years of service in the earlier status for personnel whose status has changed, with the exception of changes of level for technical staff, the years of their final service and status will be increased as follows:

1-For every year of former service with academic credentials lower than completed middle school, four months.

2-For every year of former service with academic credentials for completed middle school and high school diploma, six months.

3-For every year of former service with academic credentials for a bachelor's or master's degree, six months.

4-For every year of former service with academic credentials for a doctorate, 12 months.

C: The number of promotions for persons covered under this article in view of the years of service can be calculated (without the added years) at the final status to two decimal places, to allow two promotions for every five years of service with a maximum of six promotions. The years of on-the-job training will not be counted in computing the number of promotions.

Note: If the salary grade for personnel mentioned in Paragraph B is reduced from their former status, the salary grade and the number of promotions will be calculated using the previous academic credentials to a maximum of promotions.

D: In calculating the base salary for the personnel mentioned in this article, the maximum number of years acceptable for all statuses is 30 years.

E: All military personnel with a rank higher than colonel who served in the army since 1/15/1358 [4 March 1979] or who have served since that date but a special decree has been issued concerning the level of their salary, with regard to the wages covered in this law they will draw the same amounts they drew before this law was enacted. In cases where subsequent decrees set new figures for them, they will draw those amounts.

F: Military personnel mentioned in Paragraph E who served in the army after 1/15/1358 [4 March 1979] to a maximum time of the date of enactment of the Army Law and for whom no special decree has been issued concerning their wage level, one unit of promotion salary and one unit of salary grade will be added to their salary for each salary grade of brigadier-general and higher.

G: The wages of military personnel who lack academic credentials for completed elementary school are exempt from the provisions of this article, and calculations for them will be based on their highest rank based on Article Nine of this law and observing Paragraph D of this article.

Note One: Persons who were recognized as martyrs or combatants after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, like existing personnel, will be applied to this law and will receive its wages and benefits.

Note Two: Wages for those drawing permanent pensions on personnel who were killed in service will be calculated based on this article and the provisions of Article 159 of the Army Law.

Note Three: In calculating the wages mentioned in this article, the exempted years covered by previous regulations in the Army Law will be treated the same way.

It is worth mentioning that concerning Article 13 a number of deputies proposed the following note, which was approved. The text of the proposed note is as follows:

Note: The payment of monthly wages for those drawing pensions for martyrs and disabled personnel under this article will be the responsibility, according to the law, of the Islamic Revolution's Martyrs' Foundation.

Article 14: Dependents of personnel who are dismissed with a minimum of 20 years service will be paid a sum equal to three-fifths of the wages provided in Article 154 of the Army Law.

Note One: Personnel who were dismissed from service prior to the enactment of the Army Law and to whose families payments are being made will also receive three-fifths of the wages provided in Article 154 of the Army Law.

Note Two: For those who have had specific amounts set by competent judicial authorities will receive the new amount in cases where subsequent rulings set a new amount for them. In any case the above amounts will not exceed the amounts received and provided in this article.

Nepal

Students, Banned Political Parties Call Strike

BK2702135390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1304 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 27 (AFP)—A nationwide general strike has been called for Friday [2 March] by

banned political parties and a student organizing group in a bid to bring Nepalese officials to the negotiating table, party sources said.

A student umbrella group, the Democratic People's Movement Students Coordination Committee (DPMSCC), has a combined membership of perhaps 70,000 students and has been spearheading the current drive by banned political parties against Nepal's 30-year partyless system.

Both the students and the parties have called for the general strike to press demands for the reestablishment of a multi-party government and guarantees of full human rights, a source said.

A demonstration was also planned for Lalitpur township, 16 kilometers (10 miles) from Kathmandu, to condemn alleged reprisals against unarmed citizens and inhumane treatment of political and student detainees, the source said.

"We want to compensate the loss we had faced on February 25, when we had planned to stage a huge black-flag demonstration. The excessive deployment of the riot police on each and every street corner and public venue foiled our planned demonstration," said Mathbar Singh, spokesman for the outlawed Nepali Congress Party. The black flag has become the symbol of the pro-democracy drive.

But State Minister of Home Affairs Niranjan Thapa, commenting on the planned strike, said "there would be very poor show of the political opposition. We will badly expose their strength, and foil their planned strike and demonstration this Friday."

The DPMSCC is composed of several factions from the Tribhuvan University campus system: the pro-democratic Nepal Students Union, pro-leftist All Nepal National Free Students Union (including both pro-Soviet and pro-Beijing wings), Nepal National Students Federation, Nepal Progressive Students Union and Nepal Revolutionary Students Union.

Lalitpur is a communist stronghold, as is troubled Bhaktapur township, 20 km (13 miles) east of Kathmandu. Lalitpur and Bhaktapur are satellite cities of the Nepalese capital and are major attractions for tourists visiting Nepal.

Teachers Protest 'Repression'

BK2702151290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] In Nepal, over 4,000 university teachers observed pen-down strike today, protesting against intrusion, aggression, and repression perpetrated by the government inside campuses, hostels, and residential areas.

The teachers affiliated to the Nepal University Teachers Association held a protest meeting in Kathmandu in support of their six-point charter of demands. They demanded immediate release of arrested teachers and reinstatement of those dismissed. The also spoke in favor of civic liberties, human rights, and academic freedom.

Police Release 64 More Detainees

BK0103033690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Nepalese police have released 169 people detained during national protest for a multiparty political system last week. The chief government spokesman said 64 people were freed yesterday in the capital, Kathmandu. He said another 125 people were released earlier.

Pakistan

Official Says No Change in Nuclear Policy

BK2802104790 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 27—Munir Ahmed Khan, Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC], today categorically stated that neither Pakistan has changed its nuclear policy nor bargained on this issue.

In an interview tonight telecast by Pakistan Television Munir Ahmed Khan said that Pakistan's stand was based on principles. He said Pakistan would be ready to accept IAEA [International Atomic Energy Authority] safeguards on plants supplied by foreign countries but not on locally produced installations unless India abides bys these safeguards.

Acquiring of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes was our right, he added.

To another question the PAEC Chairman said that France has regretted to supply the reprocessing plant for which Pakistan has claimed compensation of loss it suffered.

French President Mitterrand has agreed to pay the compensation which would be determined through mutual negotiations, he said adding that an agreement to this effect would be signed soon.

Differentiating the role of the reprocessing plant and the nuclear power plant, Munir Ahmed Khan said that the reprocessing plant purifies the fuel used in the nuclear power plant so that the remaining uranium could be utilised again. While the nuclear power plant simply produces electricity, he added.

Munir Ahmed Khan said the apprehensions of United States and India were completely baseless on the proposed French nuclear plant. He said Pakistan was acquiring it for only peaceful purposes. He said "we need electricity. We need it immediately and urgently."

The Chairman of PAEC said the proposed plant would be subject to international inspection and hence any apprehension otherwise were baseless.

While replying to a question whether Pakistan can rely on France after the previous experience regarding the unilateral abrogation of supply of a nuclear reprocessing plant, he said the situation now was different.

He said President Mitterrand has expressed full confidence that Pakistan's nuclear programme was peaceful and secondly that the reprocessing plant was sensitive one.

Replying to another question about the indigenisation of nuclear power plants he said in the process of establishment of the plant in Pakistan we will gain experience and eventually in due course of time Pakistan would be able to develop these type of plants.

Referring to the nuclear fuel for this plant Munir Ahmed said initially it would be provided by the French suppliers which would be sufficient for several years. Fabrication of nuclear fuel in Pakistan for this plant at this stage will not be feasible both economically and technically, he added.

He said our uranium enrichment facilities were still in the initial stage and enrichment costs were also very high. Moreover, he said we can not afford to run any risk for the safety of the plant.—APP [Associated Press of Pakistan]

Azad Kashmir Premier Criticizes Indian Statement

BK2802161690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Sardar Sikkandar Hayat Khan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, criticized India for making an announcement that it would not allow any UN representative to enter into occupied Kashmir. In a statement in Islamabad, he said the United Nations should take note of this and should initiate action against India. He said the entire world recognizes the right of self-determination of the Kashmiris, and the objective of their current uprising is to realize this right.

Army Summoned Following Sunni Leader's Death

BK2802061890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] According to APP, the army has been called in to assist civil administration in restoring peace in Jhang where tension prevails after the assassination of Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi.

Indian Woman 'Shot Dead' by Border Troops

BK2802104690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1041 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 28 (AFP)—A 60-year-old Indian woman was shot dead by Pakistan border troops while trying to enter the eastern district of Lahore in Punjab Province, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said Wednesday [28 February].

Sutlej Rangers patrolling the border village of Batapur spotted the unidentified woman late Monday and opened fire after she failed to stop when ordered to do so, police sources said, adding that police were investigating.

Tension is still high along the Pakistan-Indian border due to the continued dispute over the state of Kashmir. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Discusses 'Civil-Military Equation'

BK2602093390 Lahore THE NATION in English 26 Feb 90 pp 1, 10

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Brigadier General A.R. Siddiqi, rtd, editor in chief of DEFENCE JOURNAL; date, place not given]

[Text] Q: The circumstances under which the general elections were held in 88 and which subsequently brought you to the office of the Prime Minister lend a special dimension to the civil-military equation. Would you like to comment on the role of the Armed Forces, Army in particular, in the transition from military dictatorship to democracy?

PM [prime minister]: I think, the Armed Forces and particularly the Army played a very crucial part in the transition for democracy. There has been an unfortunate confrontation between the Army and the people which had been launched with the imposition of Martial Law in July 1977. Since then, the situation in Pakistan had deteriorated and brought the country to a point of deep crises. When General Ziaul Haq died, the new leadership of the Armed Forces accepted the right that the political will of the people must prevail. They put national considerations above and beyond personal considerations over personal love of power and by joining or sharing the aspirations of the people of Pakistan to live in freedom, to live in dignity and to determine their own future, and the Armed Forces played a historic role. I think we must salute the spirit of the Armed Forces and also of General Beg at the crucial role they played on 17 August [1988].

Q: Would you comment on the state of civil-military relationship? The balance or imbalance in civil-military relationship has been the key to the political stability or lack of it in the country.

A: While the role of the Armed Forces since August 17 and up to the present has been commendable in sustaining and supporting constitutional role and parliamentary democracy, one cannot be oblivious to the fact that Pakistan has had three different martial laws in the past and for those of us who believe in constitutional rule, it is very important that in this transition period where we had a phase of unbridled military rule and now we are in a phase of civilian sovereignty, it is very important to maintain a relationship of trust with the Armed Forces and between the civilians, military establishment. And it is also important to realise that while

constitutional government has been restored, the sapling of parliamentary democracy is still small and will need time to grow into one which we see in established countries.

I must say that there were many who did not expect the Pakistan Peoples Party to win the elections but once we formed the government we have had unstinted support from the Armed Forces in support of democracy. So what I am trying to say is that Pakistan should not be judged as Britain or America because those countries have had democracy for a long period of time. However, the different levels of leadership, both in civil and military establishments, and indeed not just civil and military but I would go further and say even that within the Press and intellectuals must all rise up to the challenges of constructing a society that is based on constitutional rule.

Those elements that support the dictatorship have not vanished, they are still part and parcel of our society. Their mentality has been cast in a particular mould and therefore it may be difficult for them to adjust to the new reality. In view of that it is important to proceed carefully and cautiously to carry different elements within society towards the goal that we have set for ourselves.

Q: Madame, since you have specially mentioned the different stages of relationship between the civilians and the armed force, I would like to be more specific, and put to you the question about the action you took in the case of ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] and Admiral Sirohey's retirement. Well, I think, it is a potential source of controversy and of possible explosion. Would you like to comment?

A: I would take both of them separately. The ISI always comes under the Prime Minister and when a new government takes over, changes are expected although the democratic government did not make as many changes as for instance, Mr V.P. Singh within a fortnight of his coming into power made in India or as many changes, for instance, take place in the United States when a new government takes office. The former head of ISI has been promoted to the post of Lieutenant-General and therefore it was a time for a change. The ministry of Defence put up some recommendations and as a consequence we chose a new head of ISI. That system has been functioning now for some time but I think these sort of changes whether it is ISI or within the civilian bureaucracy are part of normal business of government and should be accepted as such.

Q: I find it hard to accept that, because in this case the change has not been quite as routine as one might like to think since by replacing a serving Lt-General with a retired Lt-General—you have virtually civilianised the organisation?

A: I agree with you and, in fact, at the time of our decision making perhaps we did not show as much sensitivity on the question of a retired officer viz. serving officer. We looked at the rules and there was nothing in the rules which precluded an ex-officer and perhaps in our civilian minds there was no difference between a serving officer and a former officer but we could have been more sensitive to the fact that within the Armed Forces there is a distinction between those who are serving and not serving. So, it was not as a deliberate attempt. There are many capable, competent people within the Armed Forces we could have asked for.

Q: Perhaps after this you might like to go back to the status quo ante....

A: When the time comes about. Now as far as Admiral Sirohey's case is concerned, I do feel he must be highly embarrassed by what happened, not only was he embarrassed, I think, all parties concerned have been embarrassed by this and it is unfortunate that it came out in the public purview. Unfortunately when this matter came out into the Press, it was exploited by certain elements and made to seem that the government was seeking to establish its control too fast, too far, putting its own people. How could we put in because we have not the power to appoint. [sentence as published] Had it not come out in the Press, I think that the consultation between the President and myself would have led to satisfactory resolution of the whole question and in fact subsequently we have discussed the matter and Admiral Sirohey continues for the time being as the Joint Chief.

Q: To let him complete his own tenure? I mean...

A: I am coming to that. It is just that he has been good while he is there and if it is time for somebody else, fine, I mean how does it affect me if Admiral Sirohey comes or somebody else but I will rather not go into all this.

Q: My next question is about your perception of the role of the Armed Forces, and how far do you think the Armed Forces should go in honouring it. As for their commitment to the government of the day, it has to be absolute but there is always a chance and possibility, particularly, when there is a partisan government in power of the Armed Forces getting themselves involved, voluntarily or involuntarily, in the country's politics. Do you think it would be the right thing to happen?

A: Most certainly not, I think that any civilised country needs to have neutral and professional Armed Forces. There have been many examples in history that Armed Forces have involved themselves in the political life and it has led to disaster one after the other and we must learn from history. It would be wrong of any political government to expect Armed Forces to act in a partisan fashion.

I think the nation expects its Armed Forces to maintain its neutrality, its impartiality, its professionalism and to act completely in accordance with the provision and the oath which officers and men take at the time they are inducted within the Armed Forces, and therefore while the Armed Forces have been supportive of democratic rule and of constitutional government, we will not expect them at any stage to be partisan. We would always expect

them to maintain the neutrality and the impartiality and to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitutional provisions.

Recently, the Press speculated that the Zarb-i-Momin exercises have been an attempt to refurbish the image of the Army. I would say that it has been a bold and courageous decision of General Beg who began a kind of internal debate and Zarb-i-Momin should not be seen in the light of refurbishing as it is being alleged but in the light of professionalism and the professional conduct of the Armed Forces, and if that means refurbishment from the past when the Army and the people were pitted against each other then it is a positive and a solid step.

Q: Refurbishment...?

A: So, I think, this process which has started is the healthy one within the Armed Forces and also within the country as a whole.

Q: Army is trying to refurbish its professional image.... Now we can move on to the next question, a more specific one and, that is, what in your opinion, madame, should be the ideal state of civil-military equation. Should it rest on mutual trust and goodwill rather than on hidebound documents....

A: Depends upon the period of time you are talking about because obviously that is that ideal situation but when there is a society in transition it takes time to build the bridges that need to take you towards that ideal situation. For instance, the constitution is there and the legal requirements are there for everyone. Nonetheless, within those legal and maintaining those legal requirements there is nothing to preclude consultations between the President and the Prime Minister or the President and the Chief of the Army Staff or the Prime Minister and the Chief of the Army Staff on different issues and you can always seek a resolution through consultation and yet maintain the legality of the constitutional document, and that has been our endeavour in this period of transition. After all a political leader consults with many different people, you have to consult with your Ministers, you consult with bureaucrats, you consult with technocrats, different establishments have played [as published] in the recent past, why should this preclude consultation with them. So, I think, it is always necessary to maintain the legality of the constitution and its articles but within that spirit of accommodation and consultation would be in the interest of the nation and the smooth functioning of the country.

Q: Thank you very much, Madame. I raise this question with reference to a specific case and that relates to the White Paper of 1976. This White Paper was circulated precisely on the 11th May, 1976, and on July 5, 1977, that is barely a year and two months later, martial law was imposed. The White Paper sought to make the Armed Forces to behave, and to create certain guarantees against the Armed Forces being naughty again as in the past. But it took a little over a year for the Armed Forces to come again and impose martial law which turned out to be the longest martial law.

A: There are two questions here. I do not share your linkage of Martial Law with the preparation of integrated defence organisation paper. I am convinced that Martial Law was declared as part of a conspiracy which arose on suspicions with regard to Pakistan's nuclear programme and the Prime Minister made a statement to this effect on the floor of the National Assembly also, and I do believe it was suspicions on this programme which also led to the repeated postponement of the elections programme to return of the same party and the same Prime Minister until matter had reached a situation when the suspicions were no longer there or the threat as perceived was no longer perceived. As far as your second question is concerned I am not a military person but I consider the defence, higher defence organisation paper an attempt to bring about an integrated defence strategy and it was a paper prepared against the background of the Bangladesh war and different directions in which the different services were going. The lack of coordination certainly accounted for many of the reverses that Pakistan faced althdough there were other factors too. We have not had an opportunity of discussing this present paper with the Ministry of Defence or with the J.S. [Joint Staff] Headquarters. I think, it is the period when military and civilians are getthing to know each other because in a way you are saying to me that they would not respond positively, to a paper.

Q: They did respond positively in their own way by imposing martial law....

A: No. But I am talking of positive, in a different manner, whereas from our civilian perspective it does seem to be in the interest of Pakistan to have an integrated defence strategy and when we talk of the interest, then the interest of the Armed Forces and civilian government are the same. So this issue has not come up, for instance, this issue has not come up before the DCC [Defense Committee of the Cabinet] but we have the forum whereby such issues can be discussed and satisfactorily concluded. But I don't think this paper to have any relevance to the Martial Law and this is the first time, in fact, that I am hearing of a possible linkage and I wonder whether your view is a wider view.

Q: Actually, my view is simple, it is a simple view because it is a wider. I was only trying to know which is more important to bring about a harmonious relationship between the civil and the military establishments—whether it is a mutual trust and goodwill or high-bound [as published] documents like the '76 White Paper whereby the government sought to bring about certain changes....

A: I am not sure that I share my views with you because my brief exposure to government has indicated series of consultations which take place between the Service Chiefs under the Joint Chief of Staff Admiral Sirohey. All matters are discussed at Joint Staff Headquarters

between the Service Chiefs and after being discussed at the J.S. Headquarters, they go up to the Ministry of Defence and from the Ministry of Defence they should come up either to the DCC, the Cabinet or the Prime Minister. Even at the Zarb-i-Momin exercises, we saw a coordinated effort between the different services.

Q: Do you see any difference, Madame, between the almost incipient democratic order, which we have in our country and a very strong military establishment. This is I think one of our big problems—a weak political force pitted against a very strong military establishment.

A: I think the concept of a civil society in Pakistan is certainly not strong because it is new, it has never been permitted time to grow, to nurture, to sustain itself and that is why I think it is particularly challenging for the present government to try and steer the country to a cause which would strengthen democracy. As I mentioned earlier, a democratic government takes power is often surrounded by those who have been moulded in the form of dictatorship. Now, there are two kinds of moulded dictatorships. One, of partronage, privilege, who benefited from dictatorship and therefore have a personal vendetta against the democratic government and number two, people who think in terms of unaccountable and unrepresentative system and thereby find it difficult to adjust. Now while the democratic forces in Philippines or other countries are fledging, those who had supported an authoritarian rule, or a military rule, were not imprisoned, their property was not being seized, in fact they were making money at the expense of the state, their organisations were not banned, they were building their organisations. So, in that kind of scenario, they turned out to be better organised, more articulate with more resources at their disposal both in men and material, than those who have supported a civil way of life, have suffered worst.

However, the civilians have the support of the people of Pakistan or the people of their own country and [this is] the reason why this group of people has been unable to dislodge the elected government despite a top-heavy programme.

My view is simply because of the long struggle that took place in which the people voted the People's Party government into power and wanted this government to have an opportunity to deliver on their promises. Everybody knows that overnight you can't bring changes. Even the factories that we sanction today will take three to four years to come about. People know the situation we inherited whether there were ethnic clashes, whether there were cessionists, whether there was corruption, whether there was drug culture, Kalashnikov culture. But if there was a magic wand to get rid of this or if there was administrative solution to it then I am afraid all military regimes have administrative solutions.

Even the type of period we had under Junejo, which was not representative, elections were not representative, but a kind of semi-civilian, he had administration at his disposal, so there are no quick fixes, there are no administrative solutions, it takes a political culture to induct political values, to induct respect of law and to cure the basic reasons of deprivation, those basic reasons can't be inducted overnight. Therefore I always tell my colleagues to get a little patience, all we need is time, the people of Pakistan need time and what are the alternatives, those who haven't got a chance to cure the situation. Although I think we made some positive start in the sense that the last regime landed us in mortgages.

Q: Yes, indeed...

A: This government is, for the first time, reducing deficit. Under the last regime, inflation was going up to 17 percent, we cut it down to eight to 11 percent. Now when we tell to cut it down to eight and 11, he (average citizen) is still paying more, he does not appreciate it, if you cut it down to five percent, that was finally appreciated. So, those steps we have taken for instance they created unemployment. Now for the first time we have set up a training programme for sixty thousand people. So that we can train them in basic skills and after a year they can become useful members of the society. So, all the programmes that you initiate today take time to materialise but we have initiated those programmes and I would also say that in terms of giving a clean and efficient administration to the country, we have been able to increase our tax collection, we have been able to increase the performance of our banks, because now you don't have to bribe anybody, you don't have to come and say can you give me this, can you give that. So, bringing in a cleaner, better administration and we feel that deep rooted problems, the problems of gun culture, can only be resolved when you inculcate values of the rules of law, the problem of narcotics can only be resolved when over a period of time you have rehabilitation centres and you take action against narcotics smugglers. So, everything takes time but that part has already been started.

Q: Thank you. My last question about the difference, which is a basic difference, between ensuring defence of the country and security of the country and I think, whereas it is left to the Armed Forces, under the direction and control of the civil government to ensure defence of the country...it is entirely for the politicians to ensure the security but I am afraid this is hardly so...would you like to say something about this?

A: Well, I think, the difference between defence and security comes up when there is a basic contradiction in the country between the people and the Armed Forces but once this contradiction is resolved and the nation is united as a whole, then I think both work in harmony, we have both the defence and you have the security.

Q: Would you like to say something on our prevailing geostrategic environment?

A: The prevailing strategic environment at global and regional level is experiencing rapid changes. The fast developing detente between the two superpowers, changes in Europe, thaw in Sino-Soviet relations, change

in governments in India, Iran etc., are some of the significant events which may have their impact on the region. In this limited time obviously I cannot go into the details but I can assure you that my government is constantly reviewing the global and regional situation as it affects Pakistan so as to apply suitable policy adjustments wherever necessary.

Q: Thank you, Madame prime minister. Finally would you like to say a few words about DEFENCE JOURNAL?

A: I think the DEFENCE JOURNAL has been doing very good job in presenting both to the military and to the civilians articles on important issues of defence, how they also relate at times to the civil situation and I have always admired the work that you have put into it, Brig. Siddiqi. I wish you and the DEFENCE JOURNAL the best also in the future in initiating, not instigating, interesting articles and in inviting debate with thought-provoking articles with which one may agree or may not agree but certainly leads one to discuss with them. I also regret that I don't have much time to read them now as I did as an opposition leader but I do try to have a look at it when I find time.

Sri Lanka

EPRLF Peace Agreement Conditions Reported

BK2702145390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The ruling EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka has offered all 38 council seats in favor of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] if it forms a single-party government in the council. This was stated in the 19-point program submitted to the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, in Madras yesterday by the party's delegation headed by the transport minister of the council, Mr. Abu Yusuf. The proposals include that the LTTE should join a one-year interim government paving the way for free and fair elections in March next year and finding a lasting solution to the island's ethnic problem.

Communique: Security Forces Raid JVP Hideouts

BK2802110190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0831 GMT 28 Feb 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan security forces raided two JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] hideouts in the North Western and Uva Provinces and recovered a number of weapons and hand bombs yesterday.

A government communique issued today states that security forces raided two JVP hideouts at Kurunegala in the North Western Province and Badulla in the Uva Province and recovered four .303 rifles, seven shotguns, locally-made hand bombs, and detonators.

At Ratnapura in the Sabaragamuwa Province, security forces arrested four subversives at Godakawela.

At Tangalle in the Southern Province, during a search operation security forces arrested two subversives and recovered two revolvers. The communique further states that special task force commandos conducting cordon and search operations in the Moneragala area arrested 12 subversives and that 2 subversives gave themselves up at Badulla.

At Vavuniya in the Northern Province, two unidentified persons on a motorcycle shot and killed S. Kumarasinghe, a leading member of the JVP.

Rebels Exempted From Giving up Arms by Deadline

BK0103103690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Colombo, March 1 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government has exempted the island's powerful Tamil rebels from surrendering their arms before a Thursday [1 March] deadline, a government official said.

"There has to be a degree of understanding and restraint in regard to the Tamil militant groups who are used to the gun culture," Foreign Minister and Junior Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told a weekly press briefing Thursday.

His statement came a day after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) refused to surrender their weapons until the security of the Tamil-populated Northeastern Province was ensured.

"It is not feasible to surrender arms until the security of the north and east is ensured," said Anton Balasingham, the ideologue of the LTTE. He also told a news conference in the eastern town of Batticaloa Wednesday that the security of the region depended on his group retaining their weapons.

The government had set Thursday as the last day for the surrender of all unlicenced and unauthorised firearms, explosives and other weapons, and threatened to conduct searches and prosecute those who failed to comply.

Mr. Wijeratne had told a press briefing last week that the Northeastern Province and the LTTE would not be exempted from the order. "There is no exception," he had said. "We have taken a decision. We don't have double standards."

He reiterated Thursday that the government's aim was to make Sri Lanka a "gunless country." But he added: "You will have to bear with us in that the LTTE has indicated to our president (Ranasinghe Premadasa) that as long as the IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) and TNA (Tamil National Army) cadres have arms, they would like to retain their arms."

The LTTE and the IPKF, deployed in the north and east under a July 1987 peace agreement between Colombo and New Delhi that sought to end Tamil separatism on the island, have been locked in a guerrilla war since the militants repudiated the pact. The Indian troops are scheduled to be completely withdrawn from the island by March 31. The TNA was formed by four Tamil groups opposed to the LTTE.

Mr. Wijeratne said that "whatever Balasingham or anybody says now," the LTTE had made a commitment to the government to surrender their weapons when Indian troops leave the island. "They have a problem in that they have to face up to the TNA and the IPKF," Mr. Wijeratne said. "Of that, we have to be appreciative." He said that as soon as the IPKF left, Mr. Premadasa would deal with the LTTE. "The president and the government have one law for all," he said.

The minister said the Indian departure was continuing and that another batch of 1,250 soldiers, 28 trucks and seven jeeps had sailed for home Wednesday from the ports of Trincomalee and Kankesanthurai.

Mr. Wijeratne said that in the rest of the country, action by Sinhalese rebels had been quelled to a "very great extent" and that there was "no use for anybody to keep arms. We have forcibly taken away arms from the subversive groups and that is happening," he said.

What he termed the "gun culture" in the rest of the country would be dealt with "speedily," Mr. Wijaratne said. "You must give us time to deal with the situation," he said. But he was unable to say whether any weapons had actually been surrendered in response to the government's order, saying he had not yet called for reports on the issue.